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STATIUS

I

STATIUS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

J. H. MOZLEY, M.A.

SOMETIME SCHOLAR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
LECTURER IN CLASSICS AT EAST LONDON COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

IN TWO VOLUMES

I

SILVAE

THEBAID I-IV

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INTRODUCTION

PUBLIUS PAPINIUS STATIUS was born at Naples, probably about A.D. 40.^a His father was a native of Velia on the Lucanian coast, but had moved to Naples, where as "grammaticus" he conducted a school to which pupils came from all parts of Italy. Here he taught literature, which in the secondary school of the time meant poetry, with exposition of grammar, style, and antiquities; he also instructed his pupils in augury and the various rites of the Roman state religion. He was himself a poet, and had won prizes in the Grecian contests, at Delphi, Nemea, and the Isthmus; he had written a poem on the civil war of A.D. 69, and was planning another on the eruption of Vesuvius in 79, when he died. He was buried on an estate that he possessed near Alba.

The younger Statius owed to his father's personal care and instruction all his education and poetical training, a debt which he acknowledges in terms of the warmest gratitude; he soon gained fame as a poet himself, and won prizes at the local competitions in Naples, held at the festival of the Augustalia. Probably after his father's death he left Naples and

^a See references to his *senium* in *Silv.* iii. 5. 13, 24, iv. 4. 70, v. 2. 158; the date also suits his father's lifetime. Other information will be found for the most part in *Silv.* v. 3, and iii. 5.

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went to Rome, where he lived till the year 94, writing poetry and declaiming extracts from his *Thebard* before crowded audiences. He was awarded a prize in the annual poetical contest held by Domitian in honour of Minerva at his residence near Alba, but to his great disappointment, when he competed at the important Capitoline "Agon" in Rome, he met with failure. In Rome he married his wife Claudia, a widow with one daughter. The poet himself was childless, and adopted a slave-boy born in his own house, whose early death he mourns with real sorrow in his last, unfinished poem. About 94 he returned in broken health to Naples, where he died, probably in 95 or 96.

Although one may take Juvenal's word for it that Statius, in spite of the large crowds his recitations drew, made no money out of poetry, one need not assume that he lived in poverty and was forced to write libretti for the stage in order to make a living ;^a there is nothing in his own writings that implies it, while from the mention of his father's estate at Alba one would gather that he was at least moderately well off. The poet, at any rate, seems to have lived on terms of familiarity with the wealthy Pollus Felix and others, and his wife was the personal friend of Priscilla, whose husband Abascantus was secretary of state. It seems doubtful whether he formed part of any circle or group of poets ; his patrons were those of Martial, Atedius Melior, for instance, and Pollus Felix, but neither writer ever mentions the other, whence some have thought that there was a coolness between the two. This is not unlikely, for from what we know of the two men we should conclude that they

^a See Juv. vii. 82 *sqq.*

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were extremely uncongenial to each other. Juvenal indeed, is the only Latin writer before Sidonius Apollinaris who does mention Statius, though his influence upon later poets was strong.

His relations with the Court were those of the humble aspirant to Imperial favour; his poems upon the colossal equestrian statue of Domitian, the Emperor's 17th Consulship, the tresses of his favourite Earinus, and the banquet to which the Emperor invited him, are all marked by the flattery that the subservience of the times was eager to bestow; Domitian affected to be a patron of letters, even a poet himself: it was one of the stock compliments of the time to wonder whether he were more brilliant a poet or a commander.^a Statius frequently mentions his campaigns, and follows the convention of pretending to be planning a great work on the Emperor's wars, to which the actual epics are only preliminary.^b

Statius flourished in the middle of the Silver Age of Latin literature, coming after Seneca and Lucan (though born about the same time as the latter), before Juvenal, Tacitus, and the younger Pliny, and contemporary with Martial, Valerius Flaccus, and Quintilian. The later part of his life was thus spent under the Flavian dynasty, which in spite of its faults did really encourage letters. He also lived at a time when the practice of recitation had become a popular rage; his pleasant voice,^c his poetry, with its subtle

^a See *Achilleid*, i. 15. ^b See *Thebaid*, i. 32, *Ach.* i. 19.

^c *vocem iucundam*, Juv. vii. 82: for the *dulcedo* which Juvenal also mentions (l. 84) see on Statius's versification (below); the word was probably the origin of Dante's line (put in Statius's mouth), "Tanto fu dolce mio vocale spirto" (*Purg.* xxi. 88).

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effects of alliteration and assonance, its brilliant passages, startling tricks of style and language, its avoidance of the obvious and occasional touches of the pathetic and the horrible, all this combined to tickle the ears and feelings of the popular audiences of the day.^a Or again, with an Italian's gift of rapid improvisation, he would delight a patron by dashing off a description of his villa in marvellously smooth hexameters, or oblige him with occasional verse on any subject, serious or trivial.

The poetry of Statius shows many of the characteristics of the Silver Age. (i.) The rhetorical influence is evident, frequency of hyperbole, straining after epigram and point, superficiality and obedience to text-book models. (ii.) There is a tendency to realism which shows itself now in the petty, now in the horrible, as for instance in many of the battle-scenes of the *Thebaid*. (iii.) There is a general diminution of scale, characteristic perhaps of Silver periods of literature, when the great subjects are exhausted and poets descend to more trivial themes; or, if the grand themes are still attempted, the treatment is unequal to them, and lack of proportion is the inevitable result. The search for new matter takes the form of describing things that the great poets would not have thought worth describing, or not suitable to poetry. The Description, indeed, as such, the *ἑκφρασις*, becomes a recognized literary form. (iv.) Another note of the age is the conscious learning which obtrudes itself into many a passage; poets could draw on learned compilations of mythological matter and general information, on treatises dealing

^a See, for a satirical exaggeration of the picture, Persius 1. 13 *sqq.*

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with anything from astronomy to horse-breeding, while audiences probably relished such compliments to their culture.

THE *SILVAE* ^a

These are a collection of occasional poems, many of which were written hastily to order or just as the fancy seized the poet ; some, on the other hand, like the lament for his father (v. 3), are more carefully constructed. Six of them are Poems of Consolation,^b for the loss of a father, a wife or a favourite slave ; this was a type of composition of which the Romans were very fond, in prose as well as in poetry. They cannot be said to be the most successful examples of Statius's verse ; to our taste, at any rate, they appear artificial and exaggerated in tone, and lacking in real sentiment,^c also for the most part much too long. It should be said, however, that he was following the rules laid down for that type of poem by the schools of rhetoric and obeyed by the poets. This applies also to other literary forms, for example, the

^a The word means literally "pieces of raw material," from *silva*=Gk. ὕλη, i.e. pieces ready to be worked up into shape, or impromptu pieces ; cf. Quint. x. 3. 17 "diversum est eorum vitium, qui primum decurrere per materiam stilo quam velocissimo volunt, et sequentes calorem atque impetum ex tempore scribunt ; hanc silvam vocant." "Their fault is different, who wish to run over their material first with as rapid a pen as possible, and write impromptu, following the inspiration of the moment : such work they call *silva*." Cf. also Aulus Gellius, *Noct. Att.* Pref. 6.

^b Epicedion, or Ἐπικήδειον, from κῆδος, mourning, funeral lamentation.

^c Exceptions are v. 3, v. 5 and the passage at the end of ii. 1 (208-end).

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Epithalamion (i. 2), a much more pleasing composition, the Propempticon, or Farewell-piece (iii. 2), the Description ("Ἐκφρασις, i. 3, i. 5, ii. 2, iv. 6), the Genethliacon (ii. 7), a name more commonly given to a poem written for the birthday of a living person, while here the occasion is the anniversary of the birthday of the poet Lucan, who has been dead some years.

More attractive again are such pieces as that on Atedius Melior's Tree (ii. 3), where Statius's lightness of touch and fancy appears at its best, or the account of the entertainment given to the people by the Emperor on the Kalends of December (i. 6). The two imitations of Horatian lyric (iv. 5 and 7) are feeble, but the hendecasyllables of iv. 9 are spirited, and in the Lucan ode Statius succeeds in rising above the conventional, and there is real feeling in Calliope's lament for her favourite poet. The piece which he addresses to his wife Claudia is also marked by sincerity, and so are the two poems on the deaths of members of his own family, his father (v. 3) and his adopted son (v. 5); this latter poem is left unfinished, but it seems to have been planned with the same elaboration that we find in the case of the former. Best known of all the *Silvae*, probably, is the little sonnet-like poem addressed to the god Sleep (v. 4).

Statius's chief merit in this class of poetry consists perhaps, in his descriptive power, and to it we owe much of our knowledge of Roman society in the Flavian era. The scenes are varied, and include a state banquet given by the Emperor (iv. 2), a fashionable wedding (i. 2), country-seats of patrons of literature (i. 3, ii. 2), funeral scenes (ii. 1, ii. 6, etc.), the new road along the coast of Campania recently opened

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(iv. 3), an entertainment in the Amphitheatre (i. 6). Among the personages introduced are the poet's own friend and patron Pollus Felix, wealthy and cultured, the literary Epicurean Manlius Vopiscus, the soldier Rutilius Gallicus, of noble birth and distinguished career, the young Maecius Celer, just off to the Syrian front, the art-collector Novius Vindex, the freedman Claudius Etruscus, who had risen from slavery to the position of secretary of finance to the Emperor Nero, one of the three great secretaryships of the early Empire.

By far the greater number of these pieces are written in hexameters, a metre first applied by Statius, so far as we know, to the composition of *genre* poems of this kind, and employed with marvellous facility and ease ; the lines run smoothly, though without the extreme elaboration that we sometimes find in the *Thebaid*, and without great attention to variation of pause, or subtlety of alliterative effect. He displays wonderful skill in expression and choice of phrase ; when describing, for instance, the water flowing in its silver channels in the Baths of Claudius Etruscus, he says (i. 5. 48) :

argento felix propellitur unda
argentoque cadit, labrisque nitentibus instat
delicias mirata suas et abire recusat.

and, of the stream outside :

extra autem niveo qui margine caeruleus amnis
vivit.

In his address to his wife, again, speaking of the peacefulness of Naples, he says (iii. 5. 87) :

nulla foro rabies aut strictae in iurgia leges,
morum iura viris solum et sine fascibus aequum.

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As a poet who depicts the society of his time, Statius compares very favourably with Martial in avoiding the coarseness that was so prominent a feature of it, and his poetry reflects the sensitiveness of his character.

THE *THEBAID* AND *ACHILLEID*

To be the author of a great epic poem is to count as one of the few great poets of the world, and it need hardly be said that Statius can make no claim to that honour. He stands with Apollonius, Lucan, and Valerius Flaccus in the second rank. Yet the *Thebaid* received high praise from the elder Scaliger and the post-Renaissance critics, and the tendency to-day is, if anything, to underrate its merits. It is, indeed, somewhat lacking in unity of theme, yet it must be remembered that much depends on the story chosen, and that of the Seven against Thebes is a difficult one to handle owing to the double interest: the Argive and the Theban strands are hard to combine satisfactorily; in fact, the unity of the plot is a duality, *i.e.* the conflicting fortunes of the two brothers, and the real interest consists in the gradual approach and closer interweaving of the two "subjects," until, as in the *stretto* of a fugue, the climax is reached in the great duel of Bk. XI. Here, it is true, Statius might have stopped, with the *Aeneid* as his model, but the Theban legend is fruitful in incident, and it might be justly urged that the burial of the Argives, with the appeal of Theseus that it involves, together with the striking episode of the "strife of flames upon the funeral pyre" of the two rivals, formed a real part of the story; it must be admitted, however, that the

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Thebaid does not end satisfactorily: that Statius was worried over it we may gather from a hint in the *Silvae* (iii. 2. 143) H. W. Garrod has defended the *Thebaid* as an "episodic" epic, and that is probably its most conspicuous feature; at the same time, though Statius had every right to make his poem episodic if he wished, it would be wrong to overlook the unity that it does possess, even if it is less obvious than in a story like the *Argonautica*, for example, or the *Aeneid*.

The same critic has spoken of the poet's "tenderness, mysticism, and piety—in short, his Christianity"; it is true that the tenderness at times becomes sentimentality, at times a morbid emphasizing of the horrible, yet, generally speaking, Statius responds sympathetically to the tender emotions Argia as wife and daughter, Hypsipyle in the anguish caused by the loss of the babe Opheltes, Antigone as sister, are faithfully drawn, and the relations of mother and son seem to have had a particular attraction for Statius, e.g. Atalanta and Parthenopaeus, Ismenis and Crenaeus in the *Thebaid* (notice, too, how many times he refers to Ino and Palaemon), Thetis and Achilles in the *Achilleid*.^a

With regard to the gods, Jupiter and Nature are both referred to by Statius as supreme, quite apart from Fate or Destiny;^b he does not actually identify them, but we may see here a tendency to

^a In Virgil, as Warde Fowler has pointed out, the father-son relation is more prominent. Statius loves to describe children; cf. the Opheltes episode, and the three epicedia (*Silv.* ii. 1, ii. 6, v. 5), and such touches as "qui pueris sopor" (*Ach.* i. 229).

^b There is also the mysterious *triplicis mundi summum* of iv. 516, for whom see note *ad loc.*

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syncretism, or the regarding of different deities as so many manifestations of one ultimate Power, characteristic of the time.^a This probably originated with Stoicism, and Stoicism had become the religion of educated Romans, so far as they had one. "Dieu, c'est-à-dire Jupiter, et la Nature ne sont qu'un. Et cette raison divine, cette loi universelle, c'est le Fatum qui ne fait aussi qu'un avec la Nature et avec Dieu" (Legras, *La Thébaïde*, p. 160). Another apparent inconsistency has been laid to the poet's account, in making Jupiter first announce his decision to embroil Argos and Thebes, and then attempt to deter the Argives on their march by hostile omens; in this, however, he is doing no more than ancient writers commonly do in accepting both divine warning by omen and divine irrevocable will without attempting to reconcile them. That Statius was not unaware of the difficulty can be gathered from his discussions of divination and of omens (iii. 551, vi. 934).

The divine personages who make up the supernatural machinery of the *Thebaid* are treated in the familiar, realistic manner of traditional epic; certain personifications take their place among them, such as Sleep, Virtue, Piety; the latter, in her well-meant effort to stop the duel of the brothers, is treated very unceremoniously by Tisiphone, and hustled off the battle-ground whence she flees complaining to the Thunderer (xi. 457 *sq.*) Yet occasionally the poet strikes a higher note; one of the best known passages of the *Thebaid* is the description of the altar and grove of Clementia at Athens, in which the poet gives beautiful expression to the old Athenian ideal

^a Cf. also i. 696 *sq.* where Apollo is identified with Mithras, Osiris, etc.

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of humanity, lines that breathe the spirit of a purer religion than any known to the ancient world, and may well have given rise to Dante's belief that Statius was a Christian.

We may now consider briefly some further characteristics of the *Thebaid* (I.) Statius revels in description: in the first book we have the storm that Polynices encounters on his way to Argos, in Bk. II. the exciting narrative of the ambush set for Tydeus on his return from Thebes, in Bk. III. the auspice-taking, in Bk. IV. the necromancy. The games in Bk. VI. are well done, Statius, no doubt, owing several details to his own close observation in the Roman Circus, as, for example, in the boxing and wrestling matches and the discus-throwing. In Bks. VII. and X. we have two set pieces, the abode of Mars and of Sleep respectively. Battle-pieces since Homer have, as a rule, been failures, in painting as well as in poetry; those of the Silver Latin poets suggest the large canvases of third-rate Italian painters, depicting, for example, the capture of Constantinople by the Latins for the adornment of a ducal palace; the same grim detail, the same hectic fury marks the battle-scenes of Statius. It is in description that his love of hyperbole becomes most manifest: the mountain in ii. 32 *sq.* is so high that the stars rest upon it, the serpent in v. 550 covers several acres, the Centaur plunging down from the mountain dams a whole river with his bulk, iv. 144, etc.

(II.) Passages of this kind, and also similes, are in many cases borrowed from previous poets, Virgil, Ovid, or Lucan. Statius in borrowing often adds details to fill out the picture, or elaborates the

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language: often, too, he introduces a sentimental touch, *i.e.* he either attributes feeling to inanimate objects, or looks at the scene from the point of view of some living person: in ix. 90 the sea-resisting rock "feels no fear," or in the simile of the snake renewing its skin (iv. 93 *sq.*) a countryman is introduced ("a' miser agrestum," etc.) Some of his similes are worthy of notice, for example, that which compares the calm produced by the majesty of Jove's utterance to that of lakes and streams under the tranquil influence of summer (iii. 253), or that of Pluto coming into his inheritance of the underworld (xi. 443). But we get rather tired of the endless bulls and boars to which his heroes are compared.

(III.) Of Statius's inequality as a poet it is hardly necessary to speak; he suffers from lack of judgement, rising now to the wildest heights of exaggeration and bombast, and now sinking to trivial and absurd detail, as when persons are described kissing ~~each~~ other through closed visors ("galeis iuvat oscula clausis inserere," iv. 20), or when Mercury's hat gets wet in the rainstorms of Thrace (vii. 39). At the same time there are lines of great poetic beauty: 1. 336-341, a beautiful description of the rising moon, "her airy chariot hung with pearly dew" (Pope's transl.), and of Sleep's mysterious influence; or the moonbeams glinting on the bronze armour of the ambuscade (ii. 532), or a picture of sunrise on the fields in winter (iii. 468-9), or the last breeze dying away on drooping sails (i. 479-481); again, in i. 264-5, we seem to hear the beating of the gongs and the wailing of votaries by some sacred river of the East, while the mysterious figure of the Lydian Bacchus, the spirit of the golden river, appears dimly in "aut Hermi de
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fontibus aureus exis" (iv. 389). There is an effective touch in the duel of the brothers, when the ghosts of Thebans are permitted by Pluto to throng the hills around and watch the combat; in the journey of Argia, too, in Bk. XII. there are some romantic scenes (xii. 228 *sq.*, 250-54, 267-77).

(IV.) His love of epigram and point has already been mentioned; here we may notice that it is frequently seen at the ends of paragraphs, sometimes producing an effect of overstrain, even of obscurity. Examples may be found in i. 335, i. 547 (see note), i. 623, iii. 323, 498, v. 485, 533, vi. 795, x. 570.

(V.) Statius has great skill in versification, which shows itself not perhaps so much in the art of varying the pauses and the rhythm of his lines, though in this respect he has learnt more from Virgil than either Ovid or Lucan, as in his use of assonance and alliteration. The latter especially repays study, both in the single line, *e.g.* i. 123, ii. 89, v. 14, v. 615, and in passages of two or three lines, in which usually one or two consonant or vowel sounds predominate, with others as subordinate, *e.g.* ii. 118-19 ("f"), ii. 538 *sq.* ("c," "t," with "f," "v," "h") or even in longer passages, *e.g.* i. 342-54). There is also sometimes remarkable symmetry in words, see the simile in iv. 93 *sq.*, where the verb "erigitur" connects two groups, each consisting of two sub-groups, in each of which again noun and adjective are arranged in a chiasmus, and he often brackets his phrase between noun and adjective or participle, as in ii. 252-3, 718-9. It was, no doubt, technique of this kind, combined with the pointed phrases, the appearance of familiar similes and descriptions in more elaborate form, and

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the sprinkling of recondite mythological allusion that made Statius a popular poet with the audiences of Flavian Rome.

(VI.) Statius takes great liberties with the Latin language. There are phrases which it is impossible to make sense of, if taken grammatically and literally. Legras is reduced to despair by some, as by v. 115 "vel iustos cuius pulsantia menses vota tument?" he says "c'est, si on l'ose dire, un pur charabia^a"; so too "raptus ab omni sole dies" (v. 364), where the scholiast is compelled to exclaim "nove dictum!" and, perhaps the most untranslatable of all, "viderat Inachias rapidum glomerare cohortes Bacchus iter" (vii. 45). It is impossible, in translating, to do more than give the general sense; the poet is here a pure "impressionist." Postgate has made a similar comment on the style of Propertius (*Select Elegies*, Introduction, p. lx), "The outlines of his pictures lack sharpness and precision, and the colours and even forms on his canvas tend to blend imperceptibly with each other. Thus it is the general *impression* that fascinates us in his poems, not the proportion and perfection of the details." Again, speaking of Propertius' excessive subtlety of construction, he says "sometimes the sentence must be read as a whole, as it is almost impossible to give it a detailed construction. . . . Cf. i. 20. 24, where I have compared the tendency of the Greek tragedians to spread the meaning through a sentence rather than apportion it among the words." This very well expresses the character of the Statian phrase, and in this respect Statius is the successor of Propertius. Both poets perhaps were led to write in this way by an attempt

^a i.e. "pure gibberish."

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to avoid the hard glitter of Latin, so suitable to the clear-cut phrase of Horace or the snap and polish of Ovid or Martial, and a longing for occasional half-tones, for lack of precision. Possibly it is due to Virgilian influence, for part of Virgil's genius consists in being able to give a soft, mysterious effect without any sense of unnaturalness. Statius aims at a like effect, but fails to avoid unnaturalness.

(VII.) Psychologically, he is not conspicuous for remarkable insight; it may be said, however, in his defence that the epic does not demand refinement in character drawing, which is rather the business of the drama. In the *Thebaid*, as, indeed, in the *Aeneid*, the treatment of character is broad: Amphiaraus the seer, Eteocles the fierce tyrant, Capaneus the scorner of the gods, Hippomedon the stalwart warrior, Parthenopaeus the gallant youth, are all true to type;^a more carefully drawn are Adrastus and his son-in-law Polyneices; the former is depicted as an elderly monarch, grave, kindly, diplomatic, and perhaps somewhat lacking in decision, while the latter is shown as not altogether easy in mind, even diffident, about the undertaking, and ready to lapse into utter despair and to contemplate suicide when things go badly; at the same time he is not quite ingenuous (see iii. 381-2), and on comparing him with his brother one feels there is not much to choose. Tydeus is vigorously drawn, especially in the episode of the embassy; he becomes the mere warrior in Bk. X., and his memory is stained by the inhuman gnawing of his enemy's skull with which the book, and his career, closes.

^a It is not inconsistent with this to point out that Parthenopaeus is modelled on Virgil's Camilla.

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A few touches show some degree of insight : the people of Crotopus, king of Argos (in Adrastus' narrative), have just been saved from the awful pestilence sent on them by Apollo : "stupet Inacha pubes, magnaue post lacrimas etiamnunc gaudia pallent" (i. 619), "the Inachian youth stand appalled and their joy, though great now sorrow is ended, even yet is pale and dim." Capaneus is said to be "largus animae modo suaserit ira" (iii. 603), "lavish of his life, should wrath but urge him," a development of the Horatian "animaeque magnae prodigum Paullum." The Argive leaders who have taken the place of those slain in the fight are "haud laeti seque huc crevisse dolentes" (x. 181), "feeling no joy, but grief that they are raised so high." Thetis, urging the boy Achilles to don the girlish clothes, adds "nesciet hoc Chiron" (*Ach.* i. 274), "Chiron will not know of it."

The plot of the *Thebaid* was probably modelled on the vast Epic of Antimachus (*fl.* c. 400 B.C.), which Cicero calls "magnum illud volumen," and of which Porphyrio tells us that the author had completed twenty-four books before the Argive host had been brought to Thebes. Statius, though he took only six books in doing it, has been criticized for unnecessary delay in arriving at Thebes, but he was probably wise, as twelve books of battle-scenes would have rendered his work as unreadable as the seventeen books of Silius Italicus' *Punica*.

The following is a summary of the chief events of the *Thebaid* : i. 1-45, Invocation of the Emperor. 45-311, Oedipus, who has blinded himself, invokes Tisiphone and curses his sons ; she hears him and hurries to Thebes ; the brothers, full of mutual hate, agree to reign alternately ; the lot falls on Eteocles,

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and Polynices reluctantly departs. Jupiter announces his decision to set Argos against Thebes. 312-720, Polynices' journey to Argos and his experiences there. ii. 1-33, Apparition of the shade of Laius to Eteocles. 134-305, Wedding celebrations of Polynices and Tydeus at Argos. 306-743, and iii. 1-439, Tydeus goes on embassy to Thebes, the ambush set for him, his victory and return. 440-721, Auspice-taking; war is decided on at Argos. iv. 1-344, Catalogue of the Argive host. 345-645, Plight of Thebes: necromancy. 646-842 and v. 1-16, Bacchus causes the Argives to be delayed by thirst: they are saved by Hypsipyle, nurse of Opheltes, infant son of Lycurgus, king of Nemea. 17-498, Narrative of Hypsipyle. 499-753, Death of Opheltes. vi. 1-248, Funeral rites of Opheltes. 249-946, Funeral games. vii. 1-397, Catalogue of the Thebans. 398-823, The fighting begins: disappearance of the augur Amphiaraus. viii. 1-342, Amphiaraus's reception in the underworld; his successor is appointed. 342-766, Exploits and Death of Tydeus. ix. 1-569, Exploits and Death of Hippomedon. 570-907, Fears of Atalanta for Parthenopaeus' death. x. 1-261, Intervention of Juno. 262-448, Night-raid and devotion of Hoplaus and Dymas. 449-826, Devotion of Menoeceus. 827-936, Death of Capaneus. xi. 1-314, Preparations for the duel between the brothers. 315-761, The duel. Exile of Oedipus, and end of the war. xii. 1-463, Funeral rites of the Thebans. Devotion of Antigone and Argia. 464-809, Intervention of Theseus, after supplication of Argive women at Athens.

In the concluding lines of the poem Statius exhorts his *Thebaid* to follow far behind the divine *Aeneid*

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and to reverence its footsteps; ^a from them we may gather that he was humble enough not to think of himself as a rival of Virgil, though acknowledging that poet as the chief inspirer of his work. In fact, the plan and chief incidents of the *Aeneid* seem to be reproduced with an astonishing scrupulousness in the *Thebaid*. Virgil, however, was not the only poet whom Statius laid under contribution; an analysis of the *Thebaid* shows that Ovid and Lucan, and in a lesser degree Seneca and Valerius Flaccus, have incidents, or at any rate, details borrowed from them by our author. ^b In versification he is, on the whole, Ovidian; there is no trace of Virgil's gravity, or of Lucan's heaviness, but the hexameter is predominantly the smooth, unelided line of Ovid, though the hephthemimeral pause and caesura, characteristic of Silver Latin verse, is frequent.

As for the authorities on whom Statius drew for the actual story of the Seven, we have already referred to the *Thebaid* of Antimachus; its fragments, how-

nec tu divinam Aeneida tempta,
sed longe sequere et vestigia semper adora.

Cf. also references in the *Silvae*, iv. 4. 53, iv. 7. 25.

^b *e.g.* Virgil: i. 197 *sqq.* = *Aen.* i. 233 *sqq.*; x. 1 *sqq.*; ii. 133 = *Aen.* vii. 341; the Argive rush to arms, and Catalogue (Bk. III.) = *Aen.* vii. 572, etc., the Games. Parthenopaeus = Camilla; Hoplesus and Dymas = Nisus and Euryalus, and many others.

Lucan: iv. 369, etc. = *Phars.* i. 469, 674; iv. 725 = *Ph.* iv. 324.

Ovid: v. 505 = *Met.* iii. 32; vi. 825, etc. = *Met.* ix. 33 (*cf.* also Luc. *Ph.* iv. 655).

Seneca: ii. 269, etc. = *Medea*, 734 etc.; iv. 443 = *Oed.* 556.

Homer is also largely followed in the funeral rites and games of Bk. VI., and in the river fight of Bk. IX. (*Il.* xvii., xviii., and xxi.). Also some of the episodes of the night-raid (Bk. X.) are from the *Doloneia*.

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ever, are so scanty that any estimate of his debt to it must be purely conjectural, and the same applies to the *Oedipodeia* and *Thebais* of the Epic Cycle. Of extant authors, Aeschylus and Sophocles appear to have contributed comparatively little, for, to take one or two instances, the character of Eteocles is quite different in Aeschylus's *Septem*, and in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* Jocasta commits suicide and Oedipus leaves the city immediately after the discovery, while in the *Thebaid* they are both there all the time. On the other hand the *Phoenissae* of Euripides is closely followed (probably also the *Hypsipyle*^a) and Seneca's *Phoenissae*. For the narrative of Hypsipyle both Statius and Valerius Flaccus elaborate considerably on the simpler account of Apollonius of Rhodes.

There is, in fact, little if anything to show that Statius has done more than work on the traditional epic material in a manner that seemed to him best suited to the requirements of his audience; that he was successful and enjoyed considerable popularity as a poet we may gather both from the passage of Juvenal quoted above and from the closing lines of the poem itself (xii. 812-15):

iam certe praesens tibi Fama benignum
stravit iter coepitque novam monstrare futuris.
iam te magnanimus dignatur noscere Caesar,
Italia iam studio discit memoratque iuventus.

“Of a truth already present Fame hath of her bounty paved thy way, and begun to hold thee up, young as thou art, to future ages. Already great-hearted

^a There are a number of verbal parallels with the *Hypsipyle*.

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Caesar deigns to know thee, and the youth of Italy eagerly learns and recounts thy verse."

The fame that Statius so anxiously yearned for was his throughout the Middle Ages. His epic, though of the ancient world, seems to herald the new age: Amphiarus is almost the warrior bishop, Chaucer, indeed, calls him "the bisshop Amphiorax"; dragons, sorcerers, enchanted woods, maidens waving to their lovers from high turrets, and other romantic features fill the pages of his poem, while its actual influence can be traced in medieval literature.^a All readers of Dante remember the meeting of Statius and Virgil in Purgatory (Cantos 21, 22), and the touching lines in which the poet narrates the recognition of Virgil by his humble and admiring follower. Dante's belief that Statius was a Christian was due, according to Comparetti,^b to the latter's reverence for Virgil, whom the Middle Ages accepted as a prophet of Christ on the strength of the Fourth Eclogue. Mr. P. H. Wicksteed thinks that the words of xii. 496 "ignotae tantum felcibus arae" ("the altar is unknown only to the prosperous") may have led to an identification with the altar to the Unknown God, "ignoto Deo," seen at Athens by St Paul (Acts xvii. 23).^c See also A. W. Verrall's

^a For Amphiorax see Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*, ii. 103; dragons, i. 600, v. 505, sorcerers, iv. 443, x. 600, wood, iv. 419, maidens, iv. 89, vi. 546, *Ach.* ii. 23. Chaucer's Knight's Tale has borrowed largely from the *Thebaid* (through Boccaccio's *Teseide*), and its influence is seen in a poem entitled the "Lamentations of Oedipus, King of Thebes" (*Anthology of Mediaeval Latin*, S. Gaselee, 1925).

^b *Virgil in the Middle Ages*, Chapter vii.

^c *Essays in Commemoration of Dante*: "Dante and the Latin Poets," 1921.

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ingenious suggestions in "The Altar of Mercy" (*Collected Literary Essays*, 1913). Besides this there is a conjecture of Prof. Slater: Statius, as we know from *Silv.* iv. 4. 53, was in the habit of frequenting the tomb of Virgil outside Naples; he suggests that this fact, together with the well-known tradition of St. Paul's visit to that spot, may have given rise to a story of the meeting of the two, and of Statius's conversion to Christianity as the result.^a

It is quite possible, however, that Dante originated the idea for his own purposes; this was the opinion of Benvenuto, the commentator on Dante (quoted by Vernon, *Readings on the Purgatorio*, ii 188), and there seems to be no earlier tradition. When Dante and Virgil meet Statius, he is in the Circle of Avarice, where he has been 500 years, having previously spent 300 in the Ante-Purgatory, and 400 in the Circle of Sloth. The latter punishment was due, as he explains, to his unreadiness to declare himself a Christian, the former to his prodigality (by which, apparently, Dante accounts for his poverty, see Juvenal vii. 82). Statius enlightens Dante on two matters, first, the natural causes of winds and earthquakes (C. 21, *cf. Theb.* vii. 809 *sq.*), and second, the nature of the soul when separated from the body (C. 25). This latter knowledge depended to some extent on revealed truth, for which Statius needs to be a Christian. If it be asked why Statius was chosen, the answer may be (i) that he was highly esteemed in the Middle Ages, (ii.) that his Epic contains similar discussions, though certainly none so long (augury, iii. 482, 551,

^a Introduction to translation of *Silvae*, Oxford, 1908.

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physiology of horses, vi. 333, omens, vi. 934, earthquakes, vii. 809).

THE *ACHILLEID*

Owing to the poet's ill-health and comparatively early death no more than 1127 lines of this epic appear to have ever been written. In them we have the visit of Thetis, anxious for her son at the outbreak of the Trojan War, to Chiron, under whose charge he is; she conveys the youthful Achilles to Scyros, disguises him as a girl and entrusts him to the care of King Lycomedes; then come the deception of Deidamia, the discovery of Achilles by Ulysses and Diomedes, and his departure for Troy. There the fragment ends.

The poet's style is simpler and less artificial than in the *Thebaid*, and the narrative flows more evenly. The most successful part of it is undoubtedly the discovery of Achilles, i. 675-920, while the story of his introduction to and courtship of Deidamia is also well told.

THE MSS. OF STATIUS

The "Silvae"

The only ms. that deserves separate notice is the fifteenth-century ms. at Madrid (hence known as *Matritensis*), from which it has been proved that all other existing mss. are derived (see Klotz, *Introduction to the Silvae*, Teubner edition). Besides this ms., designated M, there are a certain number of emendations entered by Poltian in a copy of the first edition in the Corsinian library at Rome; some of these he

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expressly describes as taken from an old ms. he has recently discovered (1494), which ms. he says is that which Poggio, the Renaissance scholar, brought into Italy from Gaul. He also says that from this ms. all other mss. are derived, but although we can say the same of M we cannot identify it with Poggio's ms., for (i.) Politian states that the line *Silv.* i. 4. 86a, which is in M and subsequent mss., was not in Poggio's. (ii.) Some of the excerpts from the latter differ from M. (iii.) He would not have called a fifteenth-century ms. "vetustus."^a This ms. of Poggio is usually identified with the one that Poggio says he sent to Florence in 1416 or 1417, from Constance or St. Gall, which was probably a copy of a much older one that he found there. It is quite possible, however, that it was the original that he sent to Florence, and not a copy, and Politian's description of Poggio's ms. as "vetustus" would help this identification. See the *Classical Review*, Nos. 15-17, 20, 26, 27, 32.^b

M : codex Matritensis M 31, dated about 1430.

M1 : first hand, *i.e.* transcriber of the ms.

M2 : second hand, *i.e.* first corrector of the ms.

m : later correctors.

L : codex Laurentianus (only of ii. 7), dated tenth century.

^a It should be added that some of Politian's emendations in the Corsinian copy appear to be of the same date as those stated by him to be from Poggio's ms., and may therefore also come from there.

^b Also J. S. Phillimore's Introduction to *Silvae* (Oxford Classical Texts). Prof. A. C. Clark would identify Poggio's ms. with M (Introduction to Asconius, Oxford Classical Texts, p. xxxi); holding that Politian must have been mistaken.

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Pol. : emendations of Poltian (fifteenth century),
if from Poggio's ms., "from P." is added.

Dom. : Emendations of Domitius Calderinus
(fifteenth century).

ς : later mss.

The "Thebaid" and "Achilleid"

The mss. of the *Thebaid*, and in a lesser degree, of the *Achilleid* are extremely numerous, the former epic especially having been very popular in the Middle Ages. They fall into two well-defined groups, of which one has only one representative, the so-called Puteanus, at Paris, written at the end of the ninth century, and the other consists of a number of mss. of the tenth and eleventh centuries, the offspring of a ms. now lost, but dating from nearly a century before Puteanus. These, following the Teubner and Oxford editions,^a I have designated P and ω respectively. When any particular one of the latter class is quoted, ω, of course, signifies *the other* members of the group. Later mss. may be ignored.

There are remarkable differences between the two groups; the most striking will be found at iv. 555, x. 135, xi. 490, but on frequent occasions the difference is one that can hardly be accounted for on grounds of ordinary textual error.^b H. W. Garrod in his Introduction to the *Thebaid* and *Achilleid*

^a By A. Klotz (Teubner) and H. W. Garrod (Oxford Classical Texts).

^b See, for instance, *Theb.* iii. 362, 370, 372, 412, 454, 527, 658, 699.

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suggests that the double tradition may be due to a revised edition made by the poet himself.^a

On the whole the readings of P are to be preferred, and they deserve careful consideration even when they seem most difficult; but in many cases it is only judgement that can decide what Statius could or could not have written. Though the mss. that form the ω -group hang very much together, D and N have perhaps more individuality than the others, see Garrod, *Introd.* pp. ix, x.

The *Achilleid* is found in P and in a number of the ω -group; also in a ms. denoted E, in the College Library at Eton.

P: codex Puteanus (Parisinus 8051), end of ninth century.

Q: codex Parisinus 10317, tenth century.

K: codex Gudianus 54, tenth to eleventh century.

(These contain both *Thebaid* and *Achilleid*).

S: codex Parisinus 13046, tenth century.

D: ms. at St. John's Coll. Camb., tenth century.

N: ms. at Cheltenham, tenth to eleventh century.

B: codex Bambergensis, eleventh century.

C: codex Cassellanus, 164, eleventh century.

L: codex Lipsiensis, i. 12, eleventh century.

(These contain only the *Thebaid*).

E: codex Etonensis, tenth or eleventh century (*Achilleid* only).

ω : consensus of mss. other than P.

^a P. viii: he quotes references in the letters to Stella and Marcellus (*Silv.* i. and iv.), where two editions seem to be implied; also *Theb.* xii. 812-13 (novam). Klotz dissents, but without giving any satisfactory reason (p. lxx).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books 1-5 of the *Thebaid* were translated into English verse by T. Stephens in 1648, the *Achilleid* by Sir R. Howard in 1660; Book I. of the *Thebaid* by Pope in 1703; extracts from Book VI. by Gray in 1736; and all the *Thebaid* by W. L. Lewis in 1766. A prose translation of the *Silvae* by Prof. D. A. Slater was published by the Oxford Press in 1908. The only modern edition of the *Silvae* is that of Vollmer, Leipzig, 1898. There is no modern edition of the *Thebaid* or *Achilleid*.

For criticism, etc., see chapters in Butler's *Post-Augustan Poetry*, Oxford, 1909; Summers' *Silver Age of Latin Literature*, Methuen, 1920; B. A. Wise, *The Influence of Statius on Chaucer*, 1911; T. S. Duncan, *The Influence of Art on Description in the Poetry of Statius*, 1914; J. M. Nisard, *Poètes latins de la Décadence*, 1849; L. Legras, *La Thébaïde de Stace*, Paris, 1905.

No Index has been made to the poems of Statius. The names that occur in them, and the adjectives formed from names, are so numerous that no good purpose would be served by including them all. The chief characters of the *Thebaid* and the books in which they occur will be found in the Summary of Events (Introduction, pp. xxii, xxiii), while in the case of the *Silvae* the individuals to whom the different poems are addressed or those whom they commemorate will be found in the list of Contents of Vol. I (pp. v, vi).

SILVAE

SILVARUM

LIBER I

STATIUS STELLAE SUO SALUTEM

Diu multumque dubitavi, Stella, iuvenis optime et in studiis nostris eminentissime, qua parte voluisti, an hos libellos, qui mihi subito calore et quadam festinandi voluptate fluxerunt, cum singuli de sinu meo prodierint,¹ congregatos ipse dimitterem. Quid enim oportet me huius² quoque auctoritate editionis onerari, qui adhuc pro Thebaide mea, quamvis me reliquerit, timeo? Sed et Culicem legimus et Batrachomachiam etiam agnoscimus, nec quisquam est inlustrium poetarum qui non aliquid operibus suis stilo remissiore praeluserit. Quid? Quod haec serum erat continere, cum illa vos certe, quorum honori data sunt, haberetis? Sed apud ceteros necesse est multum illis pereat ex venia, cum amiserint quam solam habuerunt gratiam cele-

¹ *Lacuna in MSS. after pro: prodierint Pol., prodiissent 5.*

² *Lacuna in MSS. after enim: oportet me huius Dom.*

^a One of Virgil's earliest works, probably to be identified with the extant poem of that name; see note on *Silv.* II. 7. 74.

^b Usually known as Batrachomyomachia, or Battle of the Frogs and Mice, popularly attributed to Homer, a burlesque of the warlike epic.

SILVAE

BOOK I

STATIUS TO HIS FRIEND STELLA: GREETING!

LONG and seriously have I hesitated, my excellent Stella—distinguished as you are in your chosen branch of our common pursuit—about these pieces of mine, which were produced in the heat of the moment and by a kind of joyful glow of improvisation, whether I should collect them, after they have issued one by one from my bosom, and send them forth together. For why should I burden myself with the responsibility for this additional publication, when I am still apprehensive for my *Thebaid*, although it has left my hands? But we read the “Gnat,”^a and deign to recognize even the “Battle of the Frogs”^b; nor is there any of the great poets who has not made prelude to his works in lighter vein. Again, was it not too late to keep these poems back, when others were already in the possession of those in whose honour they were written (yourself among them)? Yet with most people much of their claim to a lenient judgement must disappear, since they have lost their impromptu nature, the only charm that they possessed. For

STATIUS

ritatis. Nullum enim ex illis biduo longius tractum, quaedam et in singulis diebus effusa; quam timeo, ne verum istuc versus quoque ipsi de se probent!

Primus libellus sacrosanctum habet testem: sumendum enim erat "a Iove principium." Centum hos versus, quos in equum maximum feci, indulgentissimo imperatori postero die, quam dedicaverat opus, tradere iussus sum. "Potuisti illud" dicet aliquis "et ante vidisse." Respondebis illi tu, Stella carissime, qui epithalamion tuum, quod mihi iniunxeras, scis biduo scriptum. Audacter mehercules, sed ter centum tamen¹ hexametros habet, et fortasse tu pro collega mentieris. Manilius certe Vopiscus, vir eruditissimus et qui praecipue vindicat a situ litteras iam paene fugientes, solet ultro quoque nomine meo gloriari, villam Tiburtinam suam descriptam a nobis uno die. Sequitur libellus Rutilio Gallico convalescenti² dedicatus, de quo nihil dico, ne videar defuncti testis occasione mentiri. Nam Claudii Etrusci testimonium documentum³ est, qui balneolum a me suum intra moram cenae recepit. In fine sunt Kalendae Decembres, quibus utique creditur: noctem enim illam felicissimam et voluptatibus publicis inexpertam⁴

¹ ter centum tamen *Elter*: tantum tamen *M*.

² convalescenti *Scrivenerius* and *Hemsius*: est valent *M* (*above* valent, fce, *erased* by *M2*), est valenti *Pol*.

³ documentum *Klotz*: domomum *M*, commodum or idoneum *Phillimore*.

⁴ *Seven or eight lines of the page left empty in mss.*

SILVAE, I

none of them took longer than two days to write, while some were turned out in a single day. How I fear lest the poems themselves make that only too plain!

The first piece can appeal to a witness of inviolable sanctity: for "from Jove must I needs begin."^a These hundred lines on the Great Horse I was bidden deliver to our most indulgent Prince the day after he had dedicated it. "Possibly," some one will say, "you had seen the statue already." You will answer him, my dearest Stella, you who know that the Epithalamium you demanded of me was written in two days. A bold piece of work, by Hercules! but all the same it contains three hundred hexameters—and perhaps you will tell a fib for a colleague. Certainly Manilius Vopiscus, a man of great erudition, who is foremost in rescuing from decay our almost vanishing literature, often boasts on my account, and quite spontaneously, that my sketch of his country-house at Tibur was done in one day. Then comes a poem dedicated to Rutilius Gallicus on his recovery from sickness, upon which I say nothing, lest I seem to be taking advantage of the death of my witness to exaggerate. For I can prove my case by the evidence of Claudius Etruscus, who received his "Bath" from me within the interval of a dinner. Last comes "The Kalends of December," which at all events will find credence; for a night so happily spent and so unprecedented for public amusements . . .

^a A solemn formula with which hymns to the gods often began, cf. ἐκ Διὸς ἀρχώμεσθα (Theocr. *Id.* 17. 1), "a Iove principium" (Virg. *Ecl.* 3. 60).

STATIUS

1. EQUUS MAXIMUS DOMITIANI IMP.

Quae superimposito moles geminata colosso
stat Latium complexa forum? caelone peractum
fluxit opus? Siculis an conformata caminis
effigies lassum Steropem Brontemque reliquit?
an te Palladiae talem, Germanice, nobis 5
effinxere manus, qualem modo frena tenentem
Rhenus et attoniti vidit domus ardua Daci?

Nunc age Fama prior notum per saecula nomen
Dardanii miretur equi, cui vertice sacro
Dindymon et caesis decrevit frondibus Ide: 10
hunc neque discissis cepissent Pergama muris
nec grege permixto pueri innuptaeque puellae
ipse nec Aeneas nec magnus duceret Hector!
adde, quod ille nocens saevosque amplexus Achivos,
hunc mitis commendat eques: iuvat ora tueri 15
mixta notis belli placidamque gerentia pacem.
nec veris maiora putes: par forma decorque,
par honor. exhaustis Martem non altius armis
Bistonius portat sonipes magnoque superbit
pondere nec tardo¹ raptus prope flumina cursu 20
fumat et ingenti propellit Strymona flatu.

¹ tardo *M*: tanto *or* -us *Pol.*, tantum *Phill.*

^a Two of the Cyclopes who laboured at the forges of Vulcan.

^b *i.e.*, of Pallas Athene, goddess of handicrafts.

^c The reference is to Domitian's campaigns against the Catti, a German tribe from the Taunus, who were threatening Mainz (A.D. 83-84); for this victory he received the title of "Germanicus"; also to the defeat of the Dacians in A.D. 89. "Arduous," because their stronghold was in the mountains of Transylvania: hence "montem," l. 80.

^d *i.e.*, Thracian.

I. THE GREAT EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF
THE EMPEROR DOMITIAN

This statue was dedicated to Domitian perhaps about A.D. 91 (i. 36); its appearance and position are described; it is hailed by Curtius; the poet declares it to be as immortal as Rome.

What mighty mass redoubled by the huge form surmounting it stands gathering to itself the Latian forum? Did it glide down, a completed work, from heaven? Was the effigy moulded in Sicilian furnaces, leaving Brontes and Steropes^a weary? or have Palladian hands^b sculptured thee for us, O Germanicus, in such guise as Rhine of late beheld thee reining thy steed, and the astounded Dacian's arduous home^c?

Come, now, let Fame of old time marvel at the age-long wonder of the Dardan horse, for whom Dindymon abased his sacred head and Ida was shorn of her leafy groves. This horse would Pergamum ne'er have held, though wide its walls were rent, nor could the mingled throng of lads and unwedded girls have drawn it, nor Aeneas himself nor mighty Hector! That one, besides, was harmful, and contained fierce Achaeans: this one is commended by his gentle rider. 'Tis a pleasure to behold that countenance whereon the marks of war are blended with the guise of tranquil peace. And think not that truth is here surpassed; equal beauty and splendour has he, and equal dignity. Not more loftily does the Bistonian^d steed bear Mars when the fighting is done, exulting in the mighty weight, and swiftly flies by the river till he is all asteam and with his strong blowing stirs up the waves of Strymon.

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Par operi sedes. hinc obvia limina pandit,
 qui fessus bellis adscitae¹ munere prohs
 primus iter nostris ostendit in aethera divis ;
 discit et e vultu, quantum tu mitior armis, 25
 qui nec in externos facilis saevire furores
 das Cattis Dacisque fidem. te signa ferente
 et minor in leges gener et Cato Caesaris iret.²
 at laterum passus hinc Iulia tecta tuentur,
 illinc belligeri sublimis regia Pauli, 30
 terga Pater, blandoque videt Concordia vultu.

Ipse autem puro celsum caput aere saeptus
 templa superfulges et prospectare videris,
 an nova contemptis surgant Palatia flammis
 pulchrius, an tacita vigilet face Troicus ignis 35
 atque exploratas iam laudet Vesta ministras.
 dextra vetat pugnas,³ laevam Tritonia virgo
 non gravat et sectae praetendens colla Medusae :
 ceu stimulis accendit equum ; nec dulcior usquam
 lecta deae sedes nec si, Pater, ipse teneres. 40
 pectora, quae mundi valeant evolvere curas,

¹ adscitae *M* : adsertae *5*.

² gener et Cato Caesaris iret *Scriverius and Housman*
 (see *Manilius*, p. lxxvii) : iret gener et Cato castris *M*.

³ pugnas *Pol.* : pugnes *M*.

^a The statue is opposite the temple of Divus Julius (the first of the Roman Emperors to be deified), dedicated by Augustus in 27 B.C., on either side of it are the Basilicas of Julius Caesar and Aemilius Lepidus respectively, *i.e.* on the right and left of one looking down the Forum away from the Capitol; behind it is the temple of Jupiter on the Capitol, and that of Concord.

^b Julius Caesar adopted Octavian, his great-nephew, as his son.

Well suited to the work are its surroundings.^a Here facing it he opens wide his portals, who weary with warfare, by the gift of his adopted son,^b first showed our deities the way to heaven; and from thy face he learns thy greater gentleness in arms, who not even against the foreigner's rage art easily stern, but with Cattians and with Dacians makest bond. Under thy leadership both his son-in-law, now the lesser^c man, and Cato had bowed to Caesar's sway. Lengthwise thy flanks are guarded, on this hand by the Julian edifice, on that by the high basilica of warlike Paullus; thy back the Sire beholds, and Concord with tranquil brow.

Thou thyself with lofty head enshrined in the pure air dost tower resplendent over the temples, and seemest to look forth to see whether the new Palace, despising the flames, be rising in greater beauty, or whether the brand of Trojan fire keep silent watch, and Vesta now be praising the proved worth of her ministrants.^d Thy right hand bids battles cease; thy left the Tritonian maiden^e overburdens not, and holding out Medusa's severed head incites thy steed as with a goad: never had the goddess choicer resting-place, not even if thou, O Father, didst hold her. Thy breast is such as might avail to solve the riddles of the universe, and thereon

^a The point is that the son-in-law was Pompey "the Great" (Magnus).

^d Domitian had recently punished one of the Vestals for unchastity (Suet. *Dom.* 8). Domitian, looking slightly to his right, would see the temple of Vesta, and the Palatine rising above it; his new buildings there are referred to by Suetonius (*Dom.* 5). The sacred fire brought from Troy was kept concealed in the temple of Vesta, *cf.* v. 3. 178 "facis opertae."

^e *i.e.* Pallas.

STATIUS

et quis¹ se totis Temese dedit hausta metallis ;
 it tergo demissa chlamys ; latus ense quieto
 securum, magnus quanto mucrone minatur
 noctibus hibernis et sidera terret Orion. 45
 at sompes habitus animosque imitatus equestres
 acrius attollit vultus cursumque minatur ;
 cui rigidis stant colla iubis vivusque per armos
 impetus et tantis calcaribus ilia late
 suffectura patent ; vacuae pro caespite terrae 50
 aerea captivi crinem tegit ungula Rheni.
 hunc et Adrasteus visum extimuisset Arion
 et pavet aspiciens Ledaëus ab aede propinqua
 Cyllarus. hic domini numquam mutabit habenas
 perpetuus frenis atque uni serviet astro ! 55
 vix sola sufficiunt insessaque pondere tanto²
 subter anhelat humus ; nec ferro aut aere : laborant
 sub genio, teneat quamvis aeterna crepido,
 quae superingesti portaret culmina montis
 caeliferique attrita genu durasset Atlantis. 60

Nec longae traxere morae. iuvat ipsa labores
 formâ dei praesens operique intenta iuventus
 miratur plus posse manus. strepit ardua pulsu
 machina ; continuus septem per culmina Martis³
 it fragor et magnae vincit⁴ vaga murmura Romae.

¹ et quis 5 : et qui *M*, et cui 5 ; it, cui *Phill*.

² tanto 5 : toto *M*

³ Martis *Gronovius* : montis *M* (from 59).

⁴ vincit *Heinsius* : fingit *M*, frangit conj. *Phill*.

^a A town in Bruttii, on the west coast, famous for copper-mines ; cf. *Odyssey*, i 184.

Temese^a has exhausted the wealth of all her mines; a cloak hangs from thy shoulders; the sword sleeps by thy untroubled side: even so vast a blade does threatening Orion wield on winter nights and terrify the stars. But the steed, counterfeiting the proud mien and high mettle of a horse, tosses his head in greater spirit and makes as though to move; the mane stands stiff upon his neck, his shoulders thrill with life, and his flanks spread wide enough for those mighty spurs; in place of a clod of empty earth his brazen hoof tramples the hair of captive Rhine. Seeing him, Adrastus' horse Arion^b would have been sore afraid, yea Castor's Cyllarus fears as he looks forth upon him from his neighbouring temple. Never will this steed suffer another master's rein; this curb is his for ever, one star, and one star only will he serve. Scarce doth the soil hold, and the ground pants beneath the pressure of so vast a weight; and not of iron or bronze: 'tis under thy deity it trembles, ay, even should an everlasting rock support thee, such as would bear the peaks of a mountain piled upon it, or have endured to be pressed by the knee of heaven-sustaining Atlas.

No lengthy tarrying drew out the time. The present beauty of the god itself makes labour sweet, and the workmen intent upon their task marvel at their greater vigour. Towering cranes creak and rattle; continuous runs the roar over the seven heights of Mars, and drowns the wandering noises of mighty Rome.

^b The horse of Adrastus, king of Argos, leader of the Seven against Thebes; see *Theb.* vi. 301. Neptune was supposed to have been his father.

STATIUS

Ipse loci custos, cuius sacrata vorago 66
 famosique lacus nomen memorabile servant,
 innumeros aeris sonitus et verberc crudo
 ut sensit mugire forum, movet horrida sancto
 ora situ meritaque caput venerabile quercu. 70
 ac primum ingentes habitus lucemque coruscant
 expavit maioris equi terque ardua mersit
 colla lacu trepidans, laetus mox praeside viso :
 " salve, magnorum proles genitorque deorum,
 auditum longe numen mihi ! nunc mea felix, 75
 nunc veneranda palus, cum te prope nosse tuumque
 immortale iubar vicina sede tueri
 concessum. semel auctor ego inventorque salutis
 Romuleae : tu bella Iovis, tu proelia Rheni,
 tu civile nefas, tu tardum in foedera montem 80
 longo Marte domas. quod si te nostra tulissent
 saecula, temptasses me non audente profundo
 ire lacu, sed Roma tuas tenuisset habenas."
 Cedat equus, Latiae qui contra templa Diones
 Caesarei stat sede fori—quem traderis ausus 85
 Pellaeo, Lysippe, duci, mox Caesaris ora
 mirata cervice tulit—vix lumine fesso
 explores, quam longus in hunc despectus ab illo.

^a *i.e.*, Curtius who saved Rome by leaping into a chasm in the Forum ; for his "devotion" see Livy, i. 12, vii. 6. The place was known as the "lacus Curtius." As one who had saved the lives of citizens he wears the crown of oak-leaves, the "corona civica."

^b *i.e.*, of the Dacians, as frequently.

^c *i.e.*, in the fighting on the Capitol which took place after Vespasian's accession.

^d An equestrian statue of Julius Caesar in the Forum

The guardian^a of the spot himself, whose memorable name the hallowed chasm and famous pools preserve, hearing the ceaseless clash of bronze and the Forum echoing with vigorous blows, raises his grisly visage, venerable even in decay, and his head revered for the well-deserved oak-wreath. And first, affrighted at the huge form and flashing glance of a mightier steed, he thrice in dismay bowed his lofty neck beneath the lake; then, joyful at the sight of his prince: "Hail, offspring and sire of mighty deities," he cries, "whose godhead I heard of from afar! Now is my lake blessed, now is it holy, since it has been granted me to know thee nigh at hand, and from my neighbouring seat to watch thy immortal brightness. Once only was I the author and winner of salvation for the folk of Romulus: thou dost win the wars of Jove and the battles of the Rhine,^b thou dost quell the strife of citizens,^c and in long warfare constrain the tardy mountain to submit. But if our age had borne thee, thou wouldest have ventured to plunge into the lake's depths, though I dared not; but Rome would have held back thy rein."

Let that steed^d give place, whose statue stands in Caesar's Forum, over against Dione's shrine—thy daring work, 'tis said, Lysippus, for the Pellaeon chief; thereafter on marvelling back he bore the effigy of Caesar—scarce could your straining sight discover how far the downward view from this monarch to that. Who is so boorish as to deny, Julium opposite the temple of Venus Genetrix, called "Latia" here as being the mother of Aeneas, and so of the Roman race. Both forum and temple were built by Caesar out of his Gallic spoils. Probably Caesar's head was substituted for Alexander's; the practice was common at Rome, cf. Suet. *Caligula*, 22.

STATIUS

quis rudis usque adeo, qui non, ut viderit ambos,
tantum dicat equos quantum distare regentes? 90

Non hoc imbriferas hiemes opus aut Iovis ignem
tergeminum, Aeoli non agmina carceris horret
annorumve moras : stabit, dum terra polusque,
dum Romana dies. huc et sub nocte silenti,
cum superis terrena placent, tua turba relicto 95
labetur caelo miscebitque oscula iuxta.
ibit in amplexus natus fraterque paterque
et soror : una locum cervix dabit omnibus astris.

Utere perpetuum populi magnique senatus
munere. Apelleae cuperent te scribere cerae 100
optassetque novo similem te ponere templo
Atticus Elei senior Iovis, et tua mitis
ora Tarans, tua sidereas imitantia flammās
lumina contempto mallet Rhodos aspera Phoebō.
certus ames terras et quae tibi templa dicamus, 105
ipse colas ; nec te caeli iuvet aula, tuosque
laetus huic dono videas dare tura nepotes.

II. EPITHALAMION IN STELLAM ET VIOLENTILLAM

Unde sacro Latii sonuerunt carmine montes ?

^a Caesar's statue was probably on a lower pedestal ; Caesar is as far inferior to Domitian as a ruler as the one statue is beneath the other !

^b Often for deified members of the Imperial house, *cf.* *Theb.* 1. 31.

^c *i.e.*, Phidias.

^d The famous Colossus was a statue of the sun-god. There was a colossal statue of Zeus at Tarentum.

when he has seen both, that ruler differs from ruler
as steed from steed ^a?

This statue fears no rainy squalls of winter or
triple fire of Jove, nor the cohorts of Aeolus' prison-
house nor the long lingering years : it will stand while
earth and sky abide, while Rome's sun endures.
Hither also in the silent night, when things of earth
find favour with the gods above, will thy kinsfolk,
leaving heaven, glide down and join with thee in
close embrace. Son and brother, sire and sister
will seek thy welcoming arms : about thy sole neck
will cluster all heaven's stars.^b

Enjoy for ever the people's and the mighty Senate's
gift. Fain would the wax of Apelles have portrayed
thee, and the old Athenian^c would have longed to set
thy likeness in a new temple of Elean Jove ; yea, soft
Tarentum would rather have thy visage, and fierce
Rhodes, scorning her Phoebus,^d thy flame-like glance.
Keep thy affections fixed on earth, and inhabit thyself
the shrines we dedicate to thee ; let not heaven's
high court delight thee, but mayst thou joyously
see thy grandsons offer incense to this our gift.

II. AN EPITHALAMIUM IN HONOUR OF STELLA AND VIOLENTILLA

A marriage-song in honour of Lucius Arruntius Stella and his bride Violentilla. Stella was a young noble, a poet and a friend of Statius ; he was one of the XVviri (see n. on l. 176), and had held some curule office. The poem contains a long episode relating how Venus and one of her Cupids brought about the match ; the usual features of an Epithalamium (praise of the pair, description of the bride, and of the marriage-festival) are freely treated.

Whence comes this sound of divine melody upon

cui, Paeon, nova plectra moves umeroque comanti
facundum suspendis ebur¹ procul ecce canoro
demigrant Helicone deae quatiuntque novena
lampade solemnem thalamis coeuntibus ignem 5
et de Pieris vocalem fontibus undam.

quas inter vultu petulans Elegea propinquat
celsior adsueto divasque hortatur et ambit
alternum futura¹ pedem decumamque videri
se cupit et medias fallit permixta sorores. 10

ipsa manu nuptam genetrix Aeneia duxit
lumina demissam et dulci probitate rubentem,
ipsa toros et sacra parat cinctuque² Latino
dissimulata deam crinem vultusque genasque
temperat atque nova gestit minor ire marita. 15

Nosco diem causasque sacri : te concinit iste—
pande fores !—te, Stella, chorus ; tibi Phoebus et
Euhan

et de Maenalia volucer Tegeaticus umbra
serta ferunt. nec blandus Amor nec Gratia cessat
amplexum niveos optatae coniugis artus 20
floribus innumeris et olenti spargere nimbo.
tu modo fronte rosas, violis modo lilia mixta
excipis et dominae niveis a vultibus obstas.

Ergo dies aderat Parcarum conditus albo
vellere, quo Stellae Violentillaeque professus 25
clamaretur hymen. cedant curaeque metusque,
cessent mendaces obliqui carminis astus,

¹ futura *ſ* : futura *M*, factura *m*, furata *Sandstroem*.

² cinctuque *Barthrus* : coetuque *M*, cestuque *Phill*.

^a The elegiac couplet has the pentameter as its second line, composed of five instead of six feet ; cf. Ovid, *Am.* iii. 1. 8 " et, puto, pes illi (Elegeia) longior alter erat." The second line, therefore, limps. We may suppose that Stella had written love-poetry in this metre.

the Latian hills? For whom, O Paeon, dost thou ply thy quill anew and hang the eloquent ivory from thy tress-strewn shoulders? Lo! far away the goddesses troop down from musical Helicon, and toss on high with ninefold torch the flame that hallows wedded union and streams of song from Pierian fountains. Among them pert-faced Elegy draws nigh, loftier of mien than is her wont, and implores the goddesses as she goes about, fain to support her one lame foot,^a and desires to make a tenth Muse and mingles with the Sisters unperceived. The mother of Aeneas^b with her own hand leads forth the bride, downcast of look and the sweet blush of chastity upon her; herself she prepares the couch and the sacred rites, and with a Latin girdle dissembles her deity and tempers the brilliance of eyes and cheeks and tresses, eager to yield before the new bride.

Ah, now do I learn what day is this, what hath caused this solemn rite: 'tis thou, Stella, thou whom that choir—fling wide the gates!—is hymning; for thee Phoebus and Euhian and the swift Tegean^c from the shades of Maenalus bring garlands. Nor do winsome Love and Grace grow weary in scattering countless blossoms and cloudy perfumes o'er thee as thou holdest close-locked the snow-white limbs of thy longed-for bride. And now roses, now lilies mixed with violets dost thou receive upon thy brow, as thou shieldest the fair face of thy mistress.

This then was the day, laid up in the white wool of the Fates, whereon the marriage-song of Stella and Violentilla should be proclaimed and sung. Let cares and fears give place, and the clever hints

^b *i.e.*, Venus.

^c *i.e.*, Bacchus and Mercury.

Fama tace : subut leges et frena momordit
ille solutus amor : consumpta est fabula vulgi
et narrata diu viderunt oscula cives. 30

tu tamen attonitus, quamvis data copia tantae
noctis, adhuc optas permissaque numine dextro
vota paves. pone, o dulcis, suspiria, vates,
pone : tua est. hcet expositum per limen aperto
ire, redire gradu . iam nusquam ianitor aut lex 35
aut pudor. amplexu tandem satiare petito—
contigit !—et duras pariter reminiscere noctes.

Digna quidem merces, et si tibi Iuno labores
Herculeos, Stygius et si concurrere monstris
Fata darent, si Cyaneos raperere per aestus. 40
hanc propter tanti Pisaea lege trementem
currere et Oenomai fremitus audire sequentis.
nec si Dardania pastor temerarius Ida
sedisses, haec dona forent, nec si alma per auras
te potius prenum aveheret¹ Tithonia biga. 45

Sed quae causa toros inopinaque gaudia vati
attulit ? hic mecum, dum fervent agmine postes
atriaue et multa pulsantur limina virga,
hic, Erato iocunda, doce. vacat apta movere
colloquia et docti norunt audire penates. 50

Forte, serenati qua stat plaga lactea caeli,
alma Venus thalamo pulsa modo nocte iacebat
amplexu duro Getici resoluta mariti.

¹ prenum *Parrhasius*, aveheret *Baehrens* : prensa
veheret *M.*

^a The dangerous clashing rocks at the Bosphorus.

^b Suitors for the hand of Hippodamia, daughter of Oenomaus, were challenged by him to a chariot-race, on condition of forfeiting their lives if they were beaten.

^c Aurora was the wife of Tithonus.

^d i.e., Thracian.

of lying fables cease, and, Rumour, be thou silent ; that love that ranged so free now brooks control and takes the bridle ; we have done with gossip and our citizens have seen the kisses so long talked of. Yet thou in bewilderment—although a night so marvellous has been granted thee—still dost pray, and art affrighted that kindly heaven has given thee thy wish. Sigh no more, sweet poet, she is thine. The door lies open, and thou canst come and go with fearless step : no doorkeeper, no rule of honour stays thee now. At last take thy fill of the desired embrace—it is thine to take !—and remember the while those nights of misery.

Worthy indeed were thy reward, even though Juno set thee Herculean toils, and the Fates gave thee monsters to contend withal, though thou wert swept through the Cyanean surge.^a To gain her it were worth while to run the race in terror of Pisa's law^b and hear the shouts of Oenomaus in hot pursuit. Nor had such a prize been thine, hadst thou, a bold shepherd lad, held thy court on Dardan Ida, nor though the warm-hearted Dawn^c had preferred thee, and snatched thee up and borne thee in her chariot through the air.

But what was the cause that brought to the poet the un hoped-for joys of wedlock ? Do thou teach me, lovely Erato, here by my side, while the halls and portals are astir with folk, and many a staff beats upon the threshold. Time permits apt converse, and the poet's home knows well how to listen.

Once on a time, where the milky region is set in a tranquil heaven, lay kindly Venus in her bower, whence night had but lately fled, faint in the rough embrace of her Getic^d lord. About the posts and

STATIUS

fulcra torosque deae tenerum premit agmen Amorum;
 signa petunt qua ferre faces, quae pectora figi 55
 imperet ; an terris saevire an malit in undis,
 an miscere deos an adhuc vexare Tonantem.
 ipsi animus nondum nec cordi fixa voluntas.
 fessa iacet stratis, ubi quondam conscia culpa
 Lemnia deprenso repserunt vincula lecto. 60
 hic puer e turba volucrum, cui plurimus ignis
 ore manumque levi numquam frustrata sagitta,
 agmine de medio tenera sic dulce profatur
 voce—pharetrati pressere silentia fratres.
 “ Scis ut, mater,” ait “ nulla mihi dextera segnis 65
 militia ; quemcumque hominum divumque dedisti,
 uritur. at quondam lacrimis et supplice dextra
 et votis precibusque virum concede moveri,
 o genetrix : duro nec enim ex adamante creati,
 sed tua turba sumus. clarus de gente Latina 70
 est iuvenis, quem patriciis maioribus ortum
 nobilitas gavisula tulit praesagaque formae
 protinus e nostro posuit cognomina caelo.
 hunc egomet tota quondam—tibi dulce—pharetra
 improbus et densa trepidantem cuspide fixi. 75
 quamvis Ausoniis multum gener ille petitus
 matribus, edomui victum dominaeque potentis
 ferre iugum et longos iussi sperare per annos.
 ast illam summa leviter—sic namque iubebas—
 lampadè parcentes et inertis strinximus arcu. 80
 ex illo quantos iuvenis premat anxius ignes,
 testis ego attonitus, quantum me nocte dieque

^a *i.e.*, made by Hephaestus, whose forges were in the island of Lemnos. For the story see *Odyssey*, viii. 266.

pillows of her couch swarm a troop of tender Loves, begging her make sign where she bids them bear her torches, what hearts they shall transfix : whether to wreak their cruelty on land or sea, to set gods at variance or yet once more to vex the Thunderer. Herself she has yet no purpose, no certain will or pleasure. Weary she lies upon her cushions, where once the Lemnian chains^a crept over the bed and held it fast, learning its guilty secret. Then a boy of that winged crowd, whose mouth was fieriest and whose deft hand ne'er sent his arrow amiss, from the midst of the troop thus called to her in his sweet boyish voice—his quivered brethren held their peace.

"Mother," says he, "thou knowest how no warfare finds my right hand idle ; whomsoe'er of gods or men thou dost assign me, he feels the smart. Yet once, O Mother, suffer us to be moved by the tears and suppliant hands, by the vows and prayers of men ; for not of steely adamant are we born, but are all thy offspring. There is a youth of famous Latin family, whom nobility rejoicing brought forth of old patrician stock, and in prescience of his beauty named straightway from our sky. Him ere now have I plied relentlessly—such was thy pleasure—with all my quiver's armoury, and pierced him to his dismay with a thick hail of darts ; and for all he is much sought by Ausonian matrons as a son-in-law, I have quelled and mastered him, and bidden him bear a noble lady's yoke and spend long years in hoping. But her we spared—such was thy command—and did but lightly graze with the flame's tip and loose-strung bow. Since then I can bear marvelling witness what fires the heart-sick youth is smothering, what strong urgency of mine he suffers night and day.

STATIUS

urgentem ferat. haud ulli vehementior umquam
 incubui, genetrix, iterataque vulnera fodi.
 vidi ego et immiti cupidum decurrere campo 85
 Hippomenen, nec sic meta pallebat in ipsa ;
 vidi et Abydeni iuvenis certantia remis
 bracchia laudavique manus et saepe natanti
 praeluxi : minor ille calor, quo saeva tepebant
 aequora : tu veteres, iuvenis, transgressus amores.
 ipse ego te tantos stupui durasse per aestus 91
 firmavique animos blandisque madentia plumis
 lumina deteresi. quotiens mihi questus Apollo,
 sic vatem maerere suum ! iam, mater, amatos
 indulge thalamos. noster comes ille piusque 95
 signifer ; armiferos poterat memorare labores
 claraque facta virum et torrentes sanguine campos,
 sed tibi plectra dedit mitisque incedere vates
 maluit et nostra laurum subtexere myrto.
 hic iuvenum lapsus suaque aut externa revolvit 100
 vulnera ; pro ! quanta est Paphii reverentia, mater,
 numinis : hic nostrae deflevit fata columbae.”
 Finierat¹ ; tenera matris cervice pependit
 blandus et admotis tepefecit pectora pennis.
 illa refert vultu non aspernata rogari : 105
 “ grande quidem rarumque viris, quos ipsa probavi,
 Pierius votum iuvenis cupit. hanc ego formae
 egregium mirata decus, cui gloria patrum
 et generis certabat honos, tellure cadentem
 excepi fovique sinu nec colla genasque 110

¹ finierat *S* : emis erat *M*, finis erat *Pol*.

^a The successful suitor to the hand of Atalanta, whom he defeated in a race.

^b *i.e.*, Leander.

^c Stella, we may gather, had written a poem on the death of a dove (a bird sacred to Venus) ; the parallel of

None ever, mother, have I so fiercely pressed, thrusting home oft-repeated wounds. And yet I saw eager Hippomenes^a run the cruel course, but even at the very goal he was not so pale ; and I saw, too, the youth of Abydos,^b whose arms did vie with oars, and praised his skill and often shone before him as he swam : yet less was that heat wherewith the savage sea grew warm ; thou, O youth, hast surpassed those loves of old. I myself, amazed that thou couldst endure such gusts of passion, have strengthened thy resolve and wiped thy streaming eyes with soothing plumes. How oft has Apollo complained to me of his poet's grief ! Grant him at last, O Mother, the bride of his desire. Our comrade is he, and loyally bears our standard ; he could tell of armed prowess and heroes' famous deeds and fields flowing with blood, but his quill is dedicate to thee and he prefers to walk in gentle poethood and twine our myrtle with bay. The folhes of lovers are his theme, and his own or others' wounds ; O Mother, what reverence hath he for thy Paphian godhead ! 'twas he that bewailed the death of our poor dove."^c

He made an end, and from his mother's soft neck hung persuasive, making her bosom warm with his covering wings. With a look that scorned not his petition she replied : " A large request and rarely granted e'en to lovers that I myself have proved, this of Pieria's young votary ! Marvelling at this maiden's peerless beauty, that rivalled the glory of her sires and her family's renown, I took her to me at her birth and cherished her in my bosom ; nor, child, has my hand grown weary of giving comeliness Lesbia's sparrow (Catullus 2, 3), suggests that the dove was Violentilla's.

STATIUS

comere nec pingui crinem deducere amomo
cessavit mea, nate, manus. mihi dulcis imago
prosiliuit. celsae procul aspice frontis honores
suggestumque comae. Latias metire quid ultra
emineat matres : quantum Latonia nymphas 115
virgo premit quantumque egomet Nereidas exsto.
haec et caeruleis mecum consurgere digna
fluctibus et nostra potuit considerare concha ;
et si flammigeras potuisset scandere sedes
hasque intrare domos, ipsi erraretis, Amores. 120
huic quamvis census dederim largita beatos,
vincit opes animo. querimur iam Seras avaros
angustum spoliare nemus Clymenaeaeque deesse
germina nec virides satis inlacrimare sorores,
vellera Sidonio iam pauca rubescere tabo 125
raraque longaevis nivibus crystalla gelari.
huic Hermum fulvoque Tagum decurrere limo,
—nec satis ad cultus—huic Inda monilia Glaucum
Proteaeque atque omnem Nereida quaerere iussi.
hanc si Thessalicos vidisses, Phoebe, per agros 130
erraret secunda Daphne. si in¹ litore Naxi
Theseum iuxta foret haec conspecta cubile,
Gnosida desertam profugus liquisset et Euan.
quod nisi me longis placasset Iuno querelis,
falsus huic pennas et cornua sumeret aethrae 135
rector, in hanc vero² cecidisset Iuppiter auro.

¹ Daphne. si in *Baehrens* : dafnes in *M*, Daphne. sin *Phyll*.

² vero *M* : verso *Herzog*, alio, fulvo, pluvio *Markland*, iterum *Burmman*.

^a "Seres" : here the reference is to cotton, as "nemus" shows, cf. Pliny's mention of "lanigeræ arbores Serum," *N.H.* xii. 10. "Clymenaeaeque germina": amber, because the Heliades who wept tears of amber for Phaethon their brother were daughters of Helios (the Sun) and Clymene. "virides

to face and form and smoothing with rich balm her tresses. She has grown up my own sweet image. Behold even from here the lofty beauty of her brow and high-piled hair. Reckon how far she doth tower above the matrons of Rome: even so far as the Latonian maid out-tops the nymphs, or I myself stand out above the Nereids. This girl is worthy to rise with me from out the dark-blue waves; she could sit with me upon my chariot-shell. Nay, could she have climbed to the flaming mansions and entered this abode, even you, ye Loves, would be deceived. Although in my bounty I have given her the boon of wealth, her mind is a yet richer dower. Already I complain that the avaricious Seres are stripping their diminished groves, that Clymene's fruit is failing, that the green Sisters weep not tears enough; that already too few fleeces are blushing with Sidonian dye, and too rarely freeze the crystals of the immemorial snows.^a For her Tagus and Hermus at my bidding run down their yellow sand—nor yet do they suffice for her arraying; for her Glaucus and Proteus and every Nereid go in search of Indian necklaces. If thou, Phoebus, hadst seen her on the fields of Thessaly, Daphne had wandered unafraid. If on Naxos' shore she had been spied by Theseus' couch, Euhann, too, would have fled from the Cretan maid and left her desolate. Nay, had not Juno appeased me by her endless plaint, heaven's lord would for this maid have taken the disguise of horns or feathers, on her lap had Jove descended in true gold. But the youth whom thou

sorores": because they were turned into poplars. "crystallæ": crystals were thought to be formed from ice, *cf.* Propertius, iv. 3. 52 "crystallus aquosa."

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sed dabitur iuveni, cui tu, mea summa potestas,
nate, cupis, thalami quamvis iuga ferre secundi
saepe neget maerens. ipsam iam cedere sensi
inque vicem tepuisse viro."

Sic fata levavit 140

sidereos artus thalamique egressa superbum
limen Amyclaeos ad frena citavit olores.
iungit Amor laetamque vehens per nubila matrem
gemmato temone sedet. iam Thybridis arces
Iliacae : pandit nitidos domus alta penates 145
claraque gaudentes plauserunt limina cygni.
digna deae sedes, nitidis nec sordet ab astris.
hic Libycus Phrygiusque silex, hic dura Laconum
saxa virent. hic flexus onyx et concolor alto
vena mari rupesque nitent, quis purpura saepe 150
Oebalis et Tyri moderator livet aeni.
pendent innumeris fastigia nixa columnis,
robora Dalmatico lucent satiata metallo.
excludunt radios silvis demissa vetustis
frigora, perspicui vivunt in marmore fontes. 155
nec servat natura vices : hic Sirius alget,
bruma tepet versumque domus sibi temperat annum.
Exsultat visu tectisque potentis alumnae
non secus alma Venus, quam si Paphon aequore ab
alto

^a Other descriptions of marble will be found in *Silvae*, i. 5. 34, ii. 2. 85, iv. 2. 26. In each passage Libyan and Phrygian are mentioned, probably a kind of *giallo antico* and *pavonazzetto* respectively. Marble of Carystos also, if "concolor alto vena mari" and "glaucae certantia Doridi saxa" are to be so explained. This is perhaps *cipollino verde ondato*. The green Laconian (here, i. 5. 40 and ii. 2. 90) is *verde antico*. "Flexus onyx" is either "onyx alabastrites" or perhaps a kind of agate. ll. 150-1 refer to porphyry; other marbles mentioned by

favourest, my son, my chiefest power, shall have his will, though many a time she refuse with tears to bear the yoke of a second wedlock. She herself, I have noticed, is already yielding, and in her turn grows warm toward her lover." With these words she raised her starry limbs, and passing the proud threshold of her chamber called to the rein her Amyclaeon doves. Love harnesses them, and seated on the jewelled car bears his mother rejoicing through the clouds. Soon appears the Ilian citadel of Tiber: a lofty mansion spreads wide its shining halls, and the swans exulting beat their wings on its bright portals. Worthy of the goddess was that abode, nor mean after the radiant stars. Here is marble of Libya and Phrygia, and the hard green Laconian rock^a; here the winding pattern of the onyx, and the vein that matches the deep sea's hue, and the brilliant stone that is envied by Oebalian^b purple and the mixer of the Tyrian cauldron. The ceilings rest poised on columns innumerable; the beams glitter in lavish decking of Dalmatian ore.^c Coolness down-streaming from ancestral trees shuts out the rays of the sun, translucent fountains play in basins of marble; nor does Nature keep her wonted order: here Sirius is cool, midwinter warm, and the house sways the altered seasons to its pleasure.

Kindly Venus rejoiced to see the house of her queenly fosterling, no less than if from the deep sea she were drawing nigh to Paphos or her Idalian Statius are those of Thasos, Chios, and Syene, and the stone called ophites (=serpentine).

^b *i.e.*, Spartan, Laconian, *cf.* "purpuras Laconicas," Hor. C. ii. 18. 7.

^c *i.e.*, gold, mined there since Augustus; *cf.* iii. 3. 90.

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Idaliasque domos Erycinaque templa subiret. 160
tunc ipsam solo reclinem adfata cubili :

“ Quonam hic usque sopor vacuque modestia lecti,
o mihi Laurentes inter dilecta puellas ?
quis morum fideique modus ? numquamne virili
summittere iugo ? venet iam tristior aetas. 165
exerce formam et fugientibus utere donis.
non ideo tibi tale decus vultusque superbos
meque dedi, viduos ut transmittare per annos
ceu non cara mihi satis o nimiumque priores
despexisse procos. etenim hic tibi sanguine toto
deditus unam omnes inter miratur amatque 171
nec formae nec stirpis egens. nam docta per urbem
carmina qui iuvenes, quae non didicere puellae ?
hunc et bis senos—sic indulgentia pergat
praesidis Ausonii—cernes attollere fasces 175
ante diem ; certe iam nunc Cybeleia movit
lmina et Euboicae carmen legit ille Sibyllae.
iamque parens Latius, cuius praenoscere mentem
fas mihi, purpureos habitus iuvenique curule
indulgebit ebur Dacasque—haec¹ gloria maior—
exuvias laurosque dabit celebrare recentes. 181
ergo age, iunge toros atque otia deme iuventae.
quas ego non gentes, quae non face corda iugavi² ?
alituum pecudumque mihi durique ferarum

¹ haec *Otto* : et *M.*

² iugavi *Dom.* : iugali *M.* Some *edd.* support *mss.* here, and explain by ellipse.

^a From Laurentum on the coast of Latium ; here = Italian.

^b *i.e.*, the Emperor ; so “ the Latian Father,” l. 178.

^c *i.e.*, he has been made one of the XVviri, under whose

home or her shrine at Eryx. Then she addressed the maiden, as she reclined alone upon her couch : " How long this slothfulness, this modest, unshared bed, O well-beloved of me among Laurentian ^a girls ? What limit wilt thou set to chastity and thy sworn vow ? Wilt thou never submit to a husband's yoke ? Soon sadder years will come. Employ thy beauty and use the gifts that are quick to fly. Not for that end did I give thee such charm and pride of countenance and my own spirit, to see thee pass year after year of loneliness, as though thou wert not dear to me. Enough, ay and too much to have despised thy former suitors. For truly this one with his whole manhood's reverent devotion loves thee alone among all others, nor lacks he beauty or noble birth ; and, for his poetry, what youths, what maidens all the city through have not his songs by heart ? Him also shalt thou see —so far may the Ausonian prince ^b prove gracious ! —raise high the twelvefold rods before the due age ; of a truth already has he opened Cybele's gates and read the Euboean Sibyl's song. ^c Soon will the Latian Father, whose purpose I may foreknow, bestow upon the youth the purple raiment and the curule ivory, ^d and will permit him to celebrate (a greater glory this) the spoils of Dacia and the laurels newly won. Come, marry then and have done with youth's tarrying. What races, what hearts has my torch failed to subdue ? Birds, cattle, savage herds charge were all foreign worships as well as the Sibylline books.

^a It is not certain to what curule office this refers, or in what capacity Stella "celebrated the Dacian victory," *i.e.*, the games that accompanied Domitian's triumph at the end of 89.

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non renuere greges, ipsum in conubia terrae 185
 aethera, cum pluviis rarescunt nubila, solvo.
 sic rerum series mundique revertitur aetas.
 unde novum Troiae decus ardentumque deorum
 raptorem, Phrygio si non ego iuncta marito,
 Lydus unde meos iterasset Thybris Iulos ? 190
 quis septemgeminæ posuisset moenia Romae
 imperii Latiale caput, nisi Dardana furto
 cepisset Martem, nec me prohibente, sacerdos ? ”

His mulcet dictis tacitæque¹ inspirat honorem²
 conubii. redeunt animo iam dona precesque 195
 et lacrimae vigilesque viri prope limina questus,
 Asteris et vatis totam cantata per urbem,
 Asteris ante dapes, nocte Asteris, Asteris ortu,
 quantum non clamatus Hylas. iamque aspera coepit
 flectere corda libens et iam sibi dura videri. 200

Macte toris, Latios inter placidissime vates,
 quod durum permensus iter coeptique labores³
 prendisti portus. nitidae⁴ sic transfuga Pisae
 amnis in externos longe flammatus amores
 flumina demerso trahit intemerata canali, 205
 donec Sicanios tandem prolatus anhelio

¹ tacitæque *Vollmer* : tacitoque *M.*

² honorem *M.* : amorem *5.*

³ labores *Macnaghten* : laboris *M.*

⁴ nitidae *5.* : nitidae *M.* : viduae *Phyllimore* : tumidae *Dom.*

^a Cf. Lucretius, i. 1 sqq., *Pervigilium Veneris*, i. 7 sqq.

^b Rhea Silvia, or Ilia, mother of Romulus and Remus.
 “Dardana” : because descended from Aeneas. “sacerdos” :
 because she was a Vestal Virgin.

^c Stella = Gk. Ἀστὴρ (Aster), therefore he calls his lady
 Asteris.

of beasts, none have said me nay:^a the very air, when rain-showers empty the clouds, do I melt into union with the earth. Thus life succeeds to life, and the world's age is renewed. Whence could have come Troy's later glory and the rescuer of the burning gods, had I not been joined to a Phrygian spouse? how could Lydian Tiber have renewed the stock of my own Iuli? Who could have founded the walls of sevenfold Rome, the head of Latium's empire, had not a Dardan priestess^b suffered the secret embrace of Mars, which I forbade not? "

By such winning words she inspires the silent girl with the pride of wedlock; her suitor's gifts and prayers are remembered, his tears and wakeful pleading at her gates, and how the whole city sang of the poet's Asteris,^c before the banquet Asteris, Asteris at night, Asteris at dawn of day, as never Hylas' name resounded.^d And now she begins gladly to bend her stubborn heart, and now to account herself unfeeling.

Blessing on thy bridal couch, gentlest of Latian bards! Thou hast endured thy hard voyage to the end and the labours of thy quest, and gained thy haven. So does the river^e that fled sleek Pisa, aflame for an alien love afar, flow with unsullied streams through a channel beneath the sea, until at last arriving he drinks with panting mouth of the Sicilian

^a An echo of Virg. *G.* iii. 6 "cui non dictus Hylas?" His story was a favourite one, *e.g.* Theocr. *Id.* 13, Prop. ii. 20.

^e Alpheus, which flowed through the territory of Pisa (called "sleek" from the oil of the wrestlers at the Olympian games), thence under the sea to Sicily. The Naiad is Arethusa.

STATIUS

ore bibat fontes ; miratur dulcia Nais
oscula nec credit pelago venisse maritum.

Quis tibi tunc alacri caelestum in munere claro,
Stella, dies, quanto salierunt pectora voto, 210
dulcia cum dominae dexter conubia vultus
adnuat ! ire polo nitidosque errare per axes
visus. Amyclaeis minus exsultavit harenis
pastor ad Idaeas Helena veniente carinas ;
Thessala nec talem viderunt Pelea Tempe, 215
cum Thetin Haemoniis Chiron accedere terris
erecto prospexit equo. quam longa morantur
sidera ! quam segnis votis Aurora mariti !

At procul ut Stellae thalamos sensere parari
Letous vatum pater et Semeleius Euhan, 220
hic movet Ortygia, movet hic rapida agmina Nysa.
huic Lycii montes gelidaeque umbracula Thymbrae
et Parnase, sonas¹ ; illi Pangaea resultant
Ismaraque et quondam genialis litora Naxi.
tunc caras iniere fores comitique canoro 225
hic chelyn, hic flavam maculoso nebrida tergo,
hic thyrsos, hic plectra ferunt ; hic enthea lauro
tempora, Minoa crinem premit ille corona.

Vixdum emissa dies, et iam socialia praesto
omina, iam festa fervet domus utraque pompa. 230
fronde virent postes, effulgent compita flammis,
et pars immensae gaudet celeberrima Romae.

¹ Parnase sonas *Dom.* : Parnasis honos *M* : Parnasis
hiems *Schwartz*.

^a It was there that he made Ariadne his bride.

^b Clearly not the crown of Ariadne ; probably ivy, with
which Bacchus is always connected ; there was a tradition
that he wore it for sorrow after the death of Ariadne (Theon
on Aratus, *Phaen.* 71).

springs ; the Naiad marvels at the freshness of his kisses, nor can believe her lover has come from the open main.

What a day was that, O Stella, for thy eager spirit, when the gods showed thee signal bounty ! How thy hopes surged within thy heart, when thy lady's favouring look gave promise of the bliss of wedlock ! Thou didst seem to tread the sky and walk among the shining heavens. Less exultant was the shepherd on Amyclae's sand when Helen came to the ships of Ida ; less eager seemed Peleus to Thessalian Tempe, when Chiron high on his horse's body looked forth and beheld Thetis draw nigh to the Haemonian strand. How tardy are the lingering stars ! how slow is Aurora to a lover's prayer !

But when the son of Leto, sire of poets, and Euhan, Semele's son, perceived from afar that Stella's marriage-chamber was preparing, from Ortygia the one, from Nysa the other they set their swift companies in train. To Apollo the Lycian hills and cool resorts of shady Thymbra sound responsive, and thou, Parnassus ; Pangaea and Ismara re-echo Bacchus, and the shores of Naxos, once his bridal bower.^a Then did they enter the doors they loved, and brought to their tuneful friend their gifts of lyre and quill, of dappled yellow fawnskin and mystic wands : the one adorns the poet's brow with bay, the other sets a Minoan crown^b upon his hair.

Scarce is the light of day sent forth, and already the omens of a happy union are at hand, already either house is aglow with festal pomp. The door-posts are green with foliage, the cross-roads bright with flame, and the most populous part of immeasurable Rome rejoices. No office of State, no

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omnis honos, cuncti veniunt ad limina fasces,
 omnis plebeio teritur praetexta tumultu : 234
 hinc eques, hinc iuvenum coetu¹ stola mixta laborat.
 felices utrosque vocant, sed in agmine plures
 invidere viro. iamdudum poste reclinis
 quaerit Hymen thalamis intactum dicere carmen,
 quo vatem mulcere queat. dat Iuno verenda
 vincula et insignit gemina² Concordia taeda. 240
 hic fuit ille dies noctem canat ipse maritus¹
 quantum nosse licet, sic victa sopore doloso
 Martia fluminea posuit latus Ilia ripa ;
 non talis niveos tinxit³ Lavinia vultus,
 cum Turno spectante rubet : non Claudia talis 245
 respexit populos mota iam virgo carina.

Nunc opus, Aonidum comites tripodumque ministri,
 diversis certare modis : eat enthea vittis
 atque hederis redimita cohors, ut pollet ovanti
 quisque lyra. sed praecipui, qui nobile gressu 250
 extremo fraudatis opus, date carmina festis
 digna toris. hunc ipse Coe plaudente Philetas
 Callimachusque senex Umbroque Propertius antro
 ambissent laudare diem, nec tristis in ipsis
 Naso Tomis divesque foco lucente Tibullus. 255

Me certe non unus amor simplexque canendi

¹ iuvenum coetu *Bernartius* : iuvenum questus hasta (hasta *erased by M1*) : in iuvenumque aestu *Postgate*, hic iuvenum vestis *Ellis*, cf. *Phillimore*, *Pref. to Silvae*, p. xx.

² insignit gemina *Phillimore* : insigni geminat *M.*

³ tinxit *Guyet* : stinxit *M.*

^a Claudia, when accused of incontinency, proved her maidenhood by causing to move the vessel that had brought the image of the Great Mother to Rome (204 B.C.) ; the ship had stuck fast, and according to the soothsayers could only be moved by a chaste woman (*Livy*, xxix. 14 ; *Ov. Fast.* iv. 343).

train of lictors but seeks that threshold ; Senators' robes are jostled by crowds of common folk ; yonder are knights, and women's gowns that mix and struggle in a throng of youths. Each they call happy, but more among the multitude envy the bridegroom. Long since leaning against the portal hath Hymen sought to utter a new song in honour of their marriage, and to gladden the poet's heart. Juno brings the holy bonds, and Concord marks the union with twofold torch. Such was that day : of the night let the bridegroom sing ! This only may we know : 'twas thus that Ilia, bride of Mars, o'ercome by deceitful slumber, laid her side on the river's bank ; less fair was Lavinia when she tinged her snow-white cheeks and blushed 'neath the eyes of Turnus ; not so did Claudia^a turn to meet the people's gaze, when the ship moved and her maidenhood was sure.

Now, comrades of the Aoman^b sisters and ministers of the tripods, now must we strive in manifold measures : send forth the inspired train, chapleted and ivy-crowned, each bard in the strength of his own exultant lyre. But above all, ye who spoil of its last pace^c your noble rhyme, bring songs that are worthy of the marriage feast. Philetas himself with Cos to applaud him and old Callimachus and Propertius in his Umbrian grot would fain have praised this day, and Naso too right gladly e'en in Tomi, and Tibullus by the glowing hearth that was his wealth.

For my part, verily, 'tis no one love, no single

^b Boeotian, *i.e.* Muses. By "comrades" and "ministers" he means poets.

^c Cf. note on i. 2. 9.

STATIUS

causa trahit : tecum similes iunctaeque Camenae,
 Stella, mihi, multumque pares bacchamur ad aras
 et sociam doctis haurimus ab amnibus undam ;
 at te nascentem gremio mea prima recepit 260
 Parthenope, dulcisque solo tu gloria nostro
 reptasti. nitidum consurgat ad aethera tellus
 Eubois et pulchra tumeat Sebethos alumna ;
 nec sibi sulphureis Lucrinae Naides antris
 nec Pompeiani placeant magis otia Sarni. 265

Heia age, praeclaros Latio properate nepotes,
 qui leges, qui castra regant,¹ qui carmina ludant.
 acceleret partu decimum bona Cynthia mensem,
 sed parcat Lucina precor ; tuque ipse parenti
 parce, puer, ne mollem uterum, ne stantia laedas 270
 pectora ; cumque tuos tacito natura recessu
 formarit vultus, multum de patre decoris,
 plus de matre feras. at tu, pulcherrima forma
 Italidum, tandem merito possessa marito,
 vincla diu quaesita fove : sic damna decoris 275
 nulla tibi ; longae² viridis sic flore iuventae
 perdurent vultus, tardeque haec forma senescat.

¹ regant *Pol.* : legant *M.*

² longae 5 . longe *M.* See Slater's note, *ad loc.*

^a *i.e.*, Naples.

^b *i.e.*, Cumae, originally a colony of Chalcis in Euboea. Sebethos was the name of a small stream flowing past Naples.

impulse that makes me sing : thou, Stella, hast a Muse like to and closely joined with mine, at similar altars do we feel the poet's rage, and together draw water from the springs of song. Thee, lady, at thy birth my own Parthenope ^a first fostered in her bosom, and in thy infancy thou wert the glory and delight of my native soil. Let the Euboean ^b land be exalted to the starry pole, and Sebethos swell with pride of his fair nursling ; nor let the Lucrine Naiads boast more of their sulphur caves, nor Pompeian Sarnus ^c in his sweet repose.

Come now, hasten ye to bestow on Latium noble sons who will make her laws and rule her armies, and practise poesy. May merciful Cynthia hasten the tenth month for the bringing-forth, but spare her, Lucina, I pray thee ; and thou, O babe, spare thy mother, hurt not her tender womb and swelling breasts ; and when Nature in secrecy has marked thy features, much beauty mayst thou draw from thy father, but more from thy mother. And thou, loveliest of Italian maids, won at last by a husband worthy of thee, cherish the bonds he sought so long ; so may thy beauty suffer no loss, and the fresh prime of youth abide for many a year upon thy brow, and that comeliness be slow to age.

^c A river flowing into the bay of Naples, to-day about two miles from Pompeii, but formerly past its walls.

STATIUS

III

VILLA TIBURTINA MANILII VOPISCI

Cernere facundi Tibur glaciale Vopisci
 si quis et inserto geminos Aniense penates
 aut potuit sociae commercia noscere ripae
 certantesque sibi dominum defendere villas,
 illum nec calido latravit Sirius astro, 5
 nec gravis aspexit Nemeae frondentis alumnus :
 talis hiems tectis, frangunt sic improba solem
 frigora, Pisaeumque domus non aestuat annum.
 Ipsa manu tenera tecum scripsisse Voluptas¹

tunc Venus Idaliis unxit fastigia sucis 10
 permulsitque comis blandumque relquit honorem
 sedibus, et volucres vetuit discedere natos.
 O longum memoranda dies ! quae mente reporto
 gaudia, quam lassos per tot miracula visus !
 ingenium quam mite solo ! quae forma beatiss 15
 ante² manus artemque locis ! non largius usquam
 indulsit Natura sibi. nemora alta citatis
 incubuere vadis ; fallax responsat imago
 frondibus, et longas eadem fugit umbra per undas.
 ipse Amen—miranda fides—infraque superque 20

¹ No lacuna in mss. after this line. It was first recognized by Schwartz, though the text was doubted by Dom. . Phillimore conj. *telam for tecum* (iii. 1. 117).

² ante *Bursian* : arte *M.*

^a i.e., the constellation Leo, the sign of the zodiac in which the sun is in July.

^b i.e., such heat as at the Olympian games, held at midsummer.

III. THE VILLA OF MANILIUS VOPISCUS AT TIBUR

Manilius Vopiscus is mentioned in the Preface to this book; he was a man of literary tastes, and an Epicurean (l. 94). The villa was probably above Tibur, Volpi found remains that he said tallied with Statius's description ("Vetus Latium profanum," x. p. 330, 1704), but no trace of it has endured to modern times.

If anyone has been privileged to behold eloquent Vopiscus' cool retreat at Tibur and the double dwelling threaded by Anio's stream, or to see the friendly intercourse of bank with bank, and each villa striving to keep their master to itself, on him the hot star of Sirius has not barked, nor leafy Nemea's offspring ^a looked with fierce aspect; such icy coolness is in the house, so pitilessly does the cold break the sun's power, nor does the dwelling swelter in Pisa's summer heat ^b

Pleasure herself with her own delicate hand <is said> to have traced with thee . . . Then Venus poured Idalian perfumes upon the roof-tops and caressed them with her hair, and left a winsome charm upon the house and bade her winged sons abide there for ever.

O ever memorable day! What raptures of the mind, what cloying of the sight by countless marvels do I recall! How kindly the temper of the soil! How beautiful beyond human art the enchanted scene! Nowhere has Nature more lavishly spent her skill. Lofty woods lean over rushing waters; a false image counterfeits the foliage, and the reflection dances unbroken over the long waves. Anio himself—marvellous to believe—though full of boulders

STATIUS

saxeus¹ hic tumidam rabiem spumosaque ponit
 murmura, ceu placidi veritus turbare Vopisci
 Pieriosque dies et habentes carmina somnos.
 litus utrumque domi, nec te mitissimus amnis
 dividit. alternas servant praetoria ripas, 25
 non externa sibi fluviumve obstare² queruntur.
 Sestiacos nunc Fama sinus pelagusque natatum
 iactet et audaci victos delphinas ephebo!
 hic aeterna quies, nullis hic iura procellis, 29
 numquam fervor aquis. datur hic transmittere visus
 et voces et paene manus. sic Chalcida fluctus
 expellunt refluvi, sic dissociata profundo
 Bruttia Sicanium circumspicit ora Pelorum.

Quid primum mediumve canam, quo fine quiescam?
 auratasne trabes an Mauros undique postes 35
 an picturata lucentia marmora vena
 mirer, an emissas per cuncta cubilia nymphas?
 huc oculis, huc mente trahor. venerabile dicam
 lucorum senium? te, quae vada fluminis infra
 cernis, an ad silvas quae respicis, aula, tacentis, 40
 qua tibi tota quies offensaque turbine nullo
 nox silet et teneros invitant³ murmura somnos?
 an quae graminea suscepta crepidine fumant
 balnea et impositum ripis argentibus ignem?
 duaque vaporiferis iunctus fornacibus amnis 45
 ridet anhelantes vicino flumine nymphas?

Vidi artes veterumque manus variisque metalla

¹ saxeus . . . spumosa *M*: *Slater conj.* spumeus . . . saxosa.

² fluviumve obstare *Pol.*: fluviorum optare *M*.

³ teneros invitant *Lemaire*: nigros imitantia (or poss. mutantia) *M*: pigros *Peyraredus*: mutantia *Postgate*.

^a i.e., Leander. The point is that these shores are kinder
 40

below and above, here silences his swollen rage and foamy din, as if afraid to disturb the Pierian days and music-haunted slumbers of tranquil Vopiscus. On either shore is home, and that most gentle river parts thee not in twain. Stately buildings guard either bank, and complain not that they are strange to each other, or that the stream bars approach. Now let Fame boast of the Sestian gulf, and the bold youth who swam the sea and outstripped the dolphins!^a Here is eternal quiet, storms have here no power, waters ne'er grow angry. Here can one see and talk, ay all but join hands across the stream. Thus do the ebbing waves repel Chalcis, thus the curve of Bruttian shore that the deep has sundered regards Sicamian Pelorus.

What shall be my first, what my middle theme, whereon shall I conclude? Shall I marvel at the gilded beams, the Moorish lintels^b on every side, patterned veins of glittering marbles, the water-nymphs that hie them through every bed-chamber? This way my eyes, that way my mind would snatch me. Shall I tell of the forest's venerable age? Of the courtyard which sees the river's lower reaches, or of that other which looks back towards the mute woodland, where it hath quiet unbroken and the silence of night unmarred by any storm, and murmuring sounds that invite to gentle slumber? Or of the smoking baths upraised on the grassy bank and the fire kindled upon the icy flood? Or where the river, chained to the vaporous furnace, laughs at the nymphs that gasp in its stream hard by?

Works of art I saw and masterpieces of the ancients than those of the Hellespont, which parted Leander from his love. ^b These were of citrus-wood from Mauretania.

STATIUS

viva modis. labor est auri memorare figuras
aut ebur aut dignas digitis contingere gemmas,
quicquid et argento primum, vel in aere minori 50
lusit et enormes manus est experta colossos.
cum vagor aspectu visusque per omnia duco,
calcabam necopinus opes. nam splendor ab alto
defluus et nitidum referentes aera testae
monstravere solum, varias ubi picta per artes 55
gaudet humus superatque novis asarota figuris :
expavere gradus.

Quid nunc iungentia¹ mirer
aut quid partitis distantia tecta trichoris ?
quid te, quae mediis servata penatibus arbor
tectata per et postes liquidas emergis in auras, 60
quo non sub domino saevas passura bipennes ?
et nunc ignaro forsitan vel lubrica Nais
vel non abruptos tibi debet² Hamadryas annos.

Quid referam alternas gemino super aggere mensas
albentesque lacus altosque in gurgite fontes 65
teque, per obliquum penitus quae laberis amnem,
Marcia, et audaci transcurris flumina plumbo ?
an solum Ioniis sub fluctibus Elydis amnem
dulcis ad Aetnaeos deducat semita portus ?
illic ipse antris Anien et³ fonte relicto 70

¹ iungentia *Dom.* : ingencia *M.*

² debet *Heinsius* : demet *M.*

³ illic *Krohn*, Anien et *Pol.* : illis ipse antris anienem *M.*

^a A famous mosaic floor by one Sosus in Pergamum, so-called because it represented the scraps and leavings of a banquet (see *Plin. N.H.* xxxvi. 184).

^b The term in Greek means a building of three stories; here and in Spartianus (*Pesc. Nig.* xu. 4) it seems to mean the upper story or stories of a house. The word is used

and metals that lived in manifold forms. A labour is it to tell of the shapes of gold, the ivories and the gems worthy to adorn a finger, and of all that the artist's hand first playfully wrought in silver or smaller bronze, and made trial of huge colossal forms. While I wandered gazing and cast my eyes on all, I was treading on riches unaware. For the radiance down-streaming from on high and the tiles that reflected the brilliant light displayed to me the floor, where the ground rejoices in manifold skill of painting, and with strange shapes surpasses the Unswept Pavement^a: awe held my steps.

Why should I now marvel at the central buildings, or at the outer wings each with its upper story^b? why at thee, preserved in the very heart of the house, thou tree that risest up through roof and roof-beam to the pure air above, and under any other lord wouldest endure the cruel axe? Even now, though thou^c knowest it not, some lissome Naiad or Hamadryad perchance doth owe to thee the life that no stroke has severed.

Why should I tell of feasts held now on this bank, now on that, of white-gleaming pools and springs deep-hidden 'neath the flood, or of thee, O Marcia,^d that glidest athwart the river's depths and in bold lead dost cross its channels? Shall only the river of Elis come safe by an unsalt path to Aetna's haven beneath Ionian waves^e? There Anio himself, leaving

nowhere else in classical Latin: in Paulinus of Nola in the Greek sense, "*trichora altaria*" (*Ep.* xxxii. 10).

^c *i.e.*, Vopiscus: the change of person addressed is awkward, unless we understand Status's habit of apostrophizing, *cf.* 1. 4. 3, 38, 106.

^d One of the aqueducts that supplied Rome with water.

^e See note on i. 2. 204.

STATIUS

nocte sub arcana¹ glaucos exutus amictus
 huc illuc fragili prosternit pectora musco,
 aut ingens in stagna cadit vitreasque natatu
 plaudit aquas. illa recubat Tiburnus in umbra,
 illic sulpureos cupit Albula mergere crines ; 75
 haec domus Egeriae nemoralem abiungere Phoeben
 et Dryadum viduare choris algentia possit
 Taygeta et silvis accersere Pana Lycaeis.
 quod ni templa darent alias Tirynthia sortes,
 et Praenestinae poterant migrare sorores. 80
 quid bifera Alcinoi laudem pomaria vosque,
 qui numquam vacui prodistis in aethera, rami ?
 cedant Telegoni, cedant Laurentia Turni
 iugera Lucrinaeque domus litusque cruenti
 Antiphatae, cedant vitreae iuga perfida Circes 85
 Dulichiis ululata lupis arcesque superbae
 Anxuris et sedes, Phrygio quas mitis alumno
 debet anus ; cedant, quae te iam solibus artis
 Antia² nimbose revocabunt litora bruma
 Scilicet hic illi meditantur pondera mores, 90
 hic premitur fecunda quies virtusque serena
 fronte gravis sanusque nitor luxuque carentes
 deliciae, quas ipse suis digressus Athenis
 mallet deserto senior Gargettius horto ;

¹ nocte sub arcana *ς* : nocte sub arcano *m*, artano *M*, noctis ubi arcano *Phillimore*.

² Antia *Markland* · avia *M* : obvia *Postgate*.

^a Tiburnus, usually Tiburtus, was the founder of Tibur; Albula, a sulphurous lake from which a stream flowed into the Anio at Tibur.

^b A nymph of Aricia, and servant of Phoebe, who had a shrine there.

^c The temple of Fortune at Praeneste was famous for telling the future by the casting of lots; the reference to Sisters is not clear, but Martial refers to the "veridicae sorores"

his grotto and his spring, in night's mysterious hour puts off his grey-green raiment and leans his breast against the soft moss hereabouts, or plunges in all his bulk into the pools and swimming splashes among the glassy waters. In that shade Tiburnus reclines, there Albula would fain dip her sulphurous tresses ;^a this bower could steal woodland Phoebe from Egeria^b and empty cold Taygetus of Dryad choirs, and summon Pan from the Lycean glades. Ay, did not the Tiryinthian shrine as well give oracles, even the Sisters of Praeneste might change their abode^c Why should I belaud the twice-bearing apple-orchards of Alcinous and the boughs that never stretched unladen to the air ?^d Let the domain of Telegonus give place and Turnus' Laurentian fields, and the Lucrine dwellings and the shore of cruel Antiphates ; let the perfidious height of glassy Circe yield, where the Dulichian wolves once howled, and Anxur's haughty towers and the home that the kind old nurse owes to her Phrygian foster-child ; let the shores of Antium give place, which when the suns are narrowed in their path and winter's storms are come will call thee to them.^e

Ay, here that serious mind broods on weighty themes ; here silence shrouds a fruitful quiet and grave virtue tranquil-browed, sane elegance and comfort that is not luxury, such as the Gargettian sage^f had himself preferred and left his own Athens and his garden behind him ; these were

of Antium in the same way (v. 1. 3). "Tiryinthia templa" is a temple of Hercules.

^a Cf. Hom. *Od.* vii. 117.

^e The places are Tusculum, Ardea, Baiae, Formiae, Caucei (Dulichian, because they were Odysseus' men), Anxur, Caieta (nurse of Aeneas), Antium.

^f Epicurus.

STATIUS

haec per et Aegaeas hiemes Hyadumque nivolum 95
sidus et Oleniis dignum petiisse sub astris,
si Maleae credenda ratis Siculosque per aestus
sit via : cur oculis sordet vicina voluptas ?
hic tua Tiburtes Faunos chelys et iuvat ipsum
Alciden dictumque lyra maiore Catillum, 100
seu tibi Pindaricis animus contendere plectris
sive chelyn tollas heroa ad robora sive
liventem satram nigra rubigine turbes¹
seu tua non alia splendescat epistola cura.

Digne Midae Croesique bonis et Perside gaza. 105
macte bonis animi, cuius stagnantia rura
debuit et flavis Hermus transcurrere ripis
et limo splendente Tagus ! sic docta frequentes
otia, sic omni detectus pectora nube
finem Nestoreae precor egrediare senectae. 110

IV

SOTERIA RUTILI GALLICI

Estis, io, superi, nec inexorabile Clotho
volvitur opus, videt alma pios Astraea Iovique

¹ turbes *M* : vibres *Scriverius*.

^a The star known as Capella, the rising of which heralded storms ; Aege, daughter of Olenus, was changed into a goat.

^b Scylla and Charybdis.

^c Either Virgil (*Aen.* vii. 670) or Horace (*C.* i. 18). Catillus was one of the founders of Tibur.

^d Often identified with Justice.

worth seeing despite Aegean storms and the Hyades' snowy constellation and the Olemian star,^a even though the bark must be thrown on Malea's mercy and the way lie through Sicilian surges^b: why do men look slightly on pleasure near at hand? Here thy lyre delights the Fauns of Tibur and Alcides himself and Catillus, sung of by a mightier harp,^c whether thou hast a mind to strive with the Pindaric quill or dost lift thy lyre to the height of heroic deeds or stirrest up the black venom of thy bitter satire, or whether thy letters glow and sparkle, composed with no less skill.

O worthy of the wealth of Midas and of Croesus and of Persian treasure, all blessing on thy wealth of soul, thou o'er whose watered fields Hermus should have flowed with yellow channel and Tagus with his shining sand! So mayst thou full oft enjoy thy learned leisure, I pray, so with heart unclouded mayst thou outpass the limits of old Nestor's age!

IV. TO RUTILIUS GALLICUS, ON HIS RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS

"Soteria" means a thanksgiving for recovery from sickness (as here), or for rescue from any serious danger. Here Statius congratulates Rutilius Gallicus, a man of noble rank and military distinction, who after seeing service in Asia Minor and Pannonia had become successively Praetor, Governor of the province of Asia, Consul, Imperial Commissioner in Africa, and finally Prefect of the City; between the last two offices he had fought on the Rhine. The recovery is effected by divine agency, Apollo and Aesculapius visiting the patient and tending him themselves.

Hurrah! ye exist then, ye gods, nor is Clotho's spinning inexorable; kindly Astraea^d hath regard

STATIUS

conciliata redit dubitataque sidera cerunt
 Gallicus es caelo, dive, es,¹ Germanice, cordi
 —quis neget?—: erubuit tanto spoliare ministro 5
 imperium Fortuna tuum stat proxima cervix
 ponderis immensi damnosaque fila senectae
 exuit atque alios melior revirescit in annos.
 ergo alacres, quae signa colunt urbana, cohortes
 inque sinum quae saepe tuum fora turbida questum 10
 confugiunt, leges urbesque ubicumque togatae,
 quae tua longinquis implorant iura querelis,
 certent laetitia, nosterque ex ordine collis
 confremat et sileant peioris murmura famae!
 quippe manet longumque aevo redeunte manebit, 15
 quem penes intrepidae mitis custodia Romae.
 nec tantum induerint fatis nova saecula crimen
 aut instaurati peccaverit ara Tarenti.

Ast ego nec Phoebum, quamquam mihi surda
 sine illo
 plectra. nec Aonias decima cum Pallade divas 20
 aut mitem Tegeae Dircesve hortabor alumnum:
 ipse veni viresque novas animumque ministra,
 qui² caneris; docto nec enim sine numine tantus
 Ausoniae decora ampla togae centumque dedisti
 iudicium mentemque viris. licet enthea vatis 25

¹ es *Sc*: et *M*: dive es *Pol*.: dives *M*: dis es *Dom*.:
 Diti es *Postgate*.

² qui *Pol*. (*from P*): quis *M*

^a One of the titles of the Emperor Domitian.

^b The four urban cohorts, directly under the Praefectus urbi; the Prefect's court was the supreme court of criminal jurisdiction, and appeals from Italian towns came to him.

^c Sometimes explained as Helicon, *cf.* "nostrias" l. 30; sometimes as Rome. Slater suggests Alba.

^d Tarentum was the name given to a depression in the Campus Martius near the Tiber, where there was an altar.

for pious folk, and comes back reconciled with Jove, and Gallicus beholds the stars he doubted e'er to see again. Beloved of heaven art thou, divine Germanicus,^a who can deny it? Fortune was ashamed to rob thy empire of so great a minister. Those shoulders with their immense burden rise once more next to thine, and have cast off the ruinous doom of eld and revive more vigorous yet for many a year. Therefore let the brisk cohorts^b that venerate the City's eagles, and the laws that oft-times take refuge in thy bosom, complaining of the courts' confusion, and the cities of the toga wheresoe'er they be, that with far-travelling pleas implore thy justice—let them vie in their rejoicing, and let our own hill^c duly join its shouts to theirs, and the mutterings of ill report be silent. For he abides, and long will abide in his new span of life, in whose merciful hand is placed the guardianship of fearless Rome. No such grave reproach will the new age lay upon the fates, nor will the altar of Tarentum,^d late restored, so deeply sin.

But I will call neither on Phoebus, although my quill is mute without him, nor on the Aonian goddesses with Pallas the tenth Muse, nor on the gentle sons of Tegea and of Dirce^e: come thou thyself and bring new strength and spirit, thou that art my theme; for not without genius heaven-sent wert thou so mighty to shed great glory upon the Ausonian gown and to give judgement and understanding to the Hundred.^f Though god-possessed Pimplea shut

^a Mercury and Bacchus.

^f The Centumviral court, prominent under the Empire, was a court of civil jurisdiction; its numbers, originally 105 (3 from each tribe) had been raised to 180. *Cf. Silv.* iv. 4. 43.

STATIUS

excludat Pimplea sitim nec conscia detur
 Pirene : largos potius mihi gurgēs in haustus,
 qui rapitur de fonte tuo, seu plana solutis
 quom struis orsa modis seu quom tibi dulcis in artem
 frangitur et nostras curat facundia leges. 30

quare age, si Cererī sua dona merumque Lyaeo
 reddimus et dives praedae tamen accipit omni
 exuvias Diana tholo captivaeque tela
 Bellipotens : nec tu, quando tibi, Gallice, maius
 eloquium, fandique opibus sublimis abundas, 35
 sperne colī tenuiore lyra. vaga cingitur astris
 luna, et in oceanum rivi cecidere minores.

Quae tibi sollicitus persolvit praemia morum
 Urbis amor ! quae tum patrumque equitumque
 notavi

lumina et ignarae plebis lugere potentes ? 40

non labente Numa timuit sic Curia felix
 Pompeio nec celsus eques nec femina Bruto.
 hoc illud : tristes invitum audire catenas,
 parcere verberibus nec qua iubet alta potestas
 ire, sed armatas multum sibi demere vires 45

dignarique manus humiles et verba precantum,
 reddere iura foro nec proturbare curules
 et ferrum mulcere toga. sic itur in alta
 pectora, sic mixto reverentia fidit amorī.
 ipsa etiam cunctos gravis inclementia fati 50
 terruit et subiti praeceps iuvenile pericli,
 nil cunctante malo. non illud culpa senectae
 —quippe ea bisseis vixdum orsa excedere lustris—,

^a Pimplea and Pirene were fountains of the Muses.

^b *i e.*, of us poets.

^c He was mourned by the Roman matrons for a whole year, Livy, ii. 7.

out the thirsty bard and conspiring Pirene ^a be not granted me, yet dearer are the lavish draughts snatched from the flood of thy own fountain, whether thou dost create free and flowing prose or whether thy sweet eloquence is broken in to rules of art and obeys our laws.^b Wherefore come—if we make return to Ceres of her gifts and to Lyæus of his wine, and if Diana though rich in booty yet receives spoils in every temple and the Lord of War our trophies of the fight—and spurn not, Gallicus, since thou hast a mightier utterance and aboundest in wealth of speech sublime, spurn not the worship of a humbler lyre. The wandering moon is ringed with stars, and lesser streams run down into the Ocean.

What rich reward for thy virtues did the City's loving anxiety give thee! What famous Senators and Knights, what champions of the obscure multitude saw I then in tears! The prosperous Curia feared not so when Numa was failing, nor the noble Knights at Pompey's danger nor the women at Brutus' death.^c And this is the cause thereof: thou wert loth to hear the sullen chains, didst spare the scourge nor go as lofty office bade thee, but didst renounce much of thy armed force, and deign to regard the petitions of the lowly and their humble prayers; thou broughtest back justice to the Forum nor didst vex the curule magistrates, but temperedst force by law. So is a way won to the deep places of the heart, so doth reverence trust the love where-with it mingles. Terrible too to all was the dire severity of Fate and the impetuous violence of the sudden peril, as the mischief tarried not. 'Twas not the fault of thy age—scarce had that begun to withdraw from its twelfth lustre—but of straining toil

STATIUS

sed labor intendens animique in membra vigentis
imperium vigilesque suo pro Caesare curae, 55
dulce opus. hinc fessos penitus subrepsit in artus
insidiosa quies et pigra oblivio vitae.

Tunc deus, Alpini qui iuxta culmina dorsi
signat Apollineos sancto cognomine lucos,
respicit heu tanti pridem¹ securus alumni. 60
praecidensque² moras: "nunc mecum, Epidauria
proles,
hinc" ait "i³ gaudens: datur—aggre-dienda
facultas!—

ingentem recreare virum. teneamus adorti
tendentes⁴ iam fila colos; ne fulminis atri
sit metus: has ultro laudabit Iuppiter artes. 65
nam neque plebeiam aut dextro sine numine cretam
servo animam. atque adeo breviter, dum tecta
subimus,

expediam. genus ipse suis permissaque retro
nobilitas; nec origo latet, sed luce sequente
vincitur et magno gaudet cessisse nepoti. 70
prima togae virtus illi quoque: clarus et ingens
eloquio; mox innumeris exercita castris
occiduas primasque domos et sole sub omni
permeruit iurata manus nec in otia pacis
permissum laxare animos ferrumque recingi. 75
hunc Galatea vicens ausa est incessere bello
—me quoque—perque novem timuit Pamphylia
messes

Pannoniusque ferox arcuque horrenda fugaci

¹ pridem *Dom.*: precidem *M.*

² praecidens *Housman*: progressus *M.*: praegressus *5.*

³ ait, *1 Bursian*: alti *M.*

⁴ tendentes *Markland*: tendatis *M.*

^a Probably Turin, the birthplace of Gallicus, is meant. Evidence for any cult of Apollo there is exceedingly weak.

and a strong mind's mastery o'er the body and unsleeping diligence in thy Emperor's cause, a labour of love to thee. Hence came creeping deep into the weary limbs a treacherous quiet and dull forgetfulness of life.

Then the god who hard by the peaks of the Alpine ridge ^a sets his sacred name of Apollo upon the groves, turns to behold, long alas ! neglectful of so precious a ward. Then cutting short delay : " Come with me on the instant, Epidaurian son," he cries, " away, and gladly too ! "Tis in our power—the chance must be seized !—to restore to health a mighty hero. Let us advance and grasp the thread that e'en now the distaff stretches.^b Fear no dread thunderbolt :^c Jupiter will be the first to praise this skill of ours. For 'tis no plebeian life I save nor one unblessed in its begetting. Briefly while we draw nigh his house will I unfold his story. Himself he gives pedigree to his line, and reflects thereon his own nobility ; yet his origin is not obscure, but surpassed by the glory that follows it, and gladly gives place to its famous progeny. He too first excelled in the arts of peace : in eloquence brilliant and powerful ; then loyal to his oath he served in East and West and under every sun, bearing the brunt of countless camps, nor was he suffered to relax his ardour in peaceful ease nor to ungird his sword. Him did Galatia dare to provoke to war in lusty pride—ay, and me also ^d—and for the space of nine harvests Pamphylia feared him, and the bold Pannonian and Armenia's

^b *i.e.*, because it is running out.

^c Jupiter had slain Aesculapius for restoring the dead to life.

^d Attack on Delphi by the Gauls, 279 B.C.

STATIUS

Armenia et patiens Latū iam pontis Araxes.
 quid geminos fascēs magnaeque iterata revolvam 80
 iura Asiae? velit illa quidem ter habere quaterque
 hunc sibi, sed revocant fasti maiorque curulis
 nec promissa semel. Labyçi quid mira tributi
 obsequia et missum media de pace triumphum
 laudem et opes quantas nec qui mandaverat ausus 85
 exspectare fuit? gaudet Trasimennus et Alpes¹
 Cannensesque animae; primusque insigne tributum
 ipse palam lacera² poscebat Regulus umbra
 non vacat Arctoas acies Rhenumque rebellem
 captivaeque preces Veledae et, quae maxima nuper 90
 gloria, depositam Dacis pereuntibus Urbem
 pandere, cum tanti lectus rectoris habenas,
 Gallice, Fortuna non admirante subisti.

Hunc igitur, si digna loquor, ~~non~~ emus iniquo,
 nate, Ioui. rogat hoc Latū ~~et~~ inclitus urbis 95
 et meruit; neque enim fruspermū nuper honora
 carmina patricio pueri sonū dū lucēstro.
 si qua salutifero gemini Chirysse¹ antro
 herba, tholo quodcumque tibe: clana recondit
 Pergamus aut medicis felix E-cita urus harenis 100
 educat, Idaea profert quam Cēra sub umbra
 dictamni florentis opem, quoque anguis abundat

¹ After this line M has ¹attollam cantu gaudet Thrasy-
 mennus et Alpes, obviously an interpolation, though various
 edd. try to fit it into the text. See Introd.

² lacera Pol.: laeta M. Pol.'s reading was taken by
 him from P.

^a Some explain as "the praetorship." cf. Mommsen
 (*Staatsrecht*, i. 384 n.), who quotes Cic. *De leg. agr.* ii. 34.
 93. and Plautus, *Epid.* i. 1. 25. to prove that the praetor
 in Rome only had two lictors (cf. *bissenos fascēs*, of the
 consulship, *Silv.* i. 2. 174).

^b i.e., the consulship, which would be registered in the Fasti.

dire retreating bowmen and Araxes that now brooks a Roman bridge. Why should I tell of the double command^a and the twice repeated governorship of Asia? who thrice and four times would fain have him for herself, but our Annals and the higher curule chair,^b oft promised, call him back. Why extol the tribute and wondrous obedience of Libya,^c and the spoils of triumph sent to Rome from the midst of peace, and such wealth as not even he who gave the charge had dared to expect? Trasimene and the Alps exult and the ghosts of Cannae; and the mangled shade of Regulus first appears and claims its glorious reward. Time allows not to recount the armies of the North and rebellious Rhine and the prayers of captive Veleda,^d and, latest and greatest glory, Rome given thee in charge, when the Dacians were falling before us and thou wert chosen, Gallicus, to take up the reins of so great a chief, and Fortune marvelled not.

"Him then, if my words find favour, we will rescue, my son, from Pluto's cruelty. This is the prayer of the illustrious Father of the Latian City,^e and he has deserved it; for not in vain of late did ye sing my praise, ye boys, clad in patrician purple. If there be any herb in twy-formed Chiron's health-giving cave, all that Trojan Pergamus stores for thee in thy shrine or blest Epidaurus nurtures in her healing sands, all the aid of flowering dittany that Crete brings forth in the glens of Ida, the abundant

^c Vespasian had renewed and increased the tribute paid by Africa and other provinces; Gallicus was perhaps sent there as Special Commissioner for this purpose.

^d A German prophetess, for whom see Tac. *Hist.* iv. 61, v. 22.

^e *i.e.*, the Emperor.

STATIUS

spumatu : iungam ipse manus atque omne benignum¹
virus, odoriferis Arabum quod doctus in arvis
aut Amphrysiaco pastor de gramine carpsi.²” 105

Dixerat. inveniunt positos iam segniter artus
pugnantemque animam ; ritu se cingit uterque
Paeonio monstrantque simul parentque volentes,
donec letiferas vario medicamine pestes
et suspecta mali ruperunt nubila somni. 110
adiuvat ipse deos morboque valentior omni
occupat auxilium. citius non arte refectus
Telephus Haemonia, nec quae metuentis Atridae
saeva Machaonio coierunt vulnera suco.

Quis mihi tot coetus inter populique patrumque 115
sit curae votique locus ? tamen ardua testor
sidera teque, pater vatum Thymbraee, quis omni
luce mihi, quis nocte timor, dum postibus hacrens
assiduus nunc aure vigil nunc lumine cuncta
aucupor³ ; immensae veluti conexa carinae 120
cumba minor, cum saevit hiems, pro parte fluentis
parva receptat aquas et eodem volvitur austro.

Nectite nunc laetae candentia fila, sorores,
nectite ! nemo modum transmissi computet aevi :
hic vitae natalis erit. tu Troica dignus 125
saecula et Euboici transcendere pulveris annos
Nestoreosque situs ! qua nunc tibi pauper acerra
digna litem ? nec si vacuet Mevania valles
aut praestent niveos Clitumna novalia tauros,

¹ benignum *Lintdenbrog* : benigne *M.*

² carpsi *Dom.* : carpsit *M.*

³ aucupor *Heinsius* : auguror *M.*

^a Cf. Virg. *Aen.* xii. 400.

^b i.e., by Achilles, cf. Hor. *Epod.* 17. 8.

^c i.e. Apollo.

spume of serpents—<these bring>, and I will join thereto my skill of hand, and every kindly juice that I learned in Arabia's balmy fields, or gathered as a shepherd in the meadows of Amphrysus."

He ended; they find the sufferer lying languid and battling for life;^a each girds himself in Paeonian wise, and willingly both teach and both obey, until with varied art of healing they have shattered the deadly plague and dispersed the dire cloud of baneful lethargy. He himself aids the heavenly ones, and prevailing o'er the utmost power of the disease anticipated the help they bring. Not more swiftly was Telephus restored by Haemonian skill,^b nor the cruel wounds of which Atrides stood in terror stanch'd by Machaon's healing balm.

What place, amid such a gathering of Senators and people, for anxious prayers of mine? Yet I call the high stars to witness, and thee, Thymbraean sire of bards,^c what terror held me night and day while I clung to the portals and in unremitting vigilance caught every hint with eye or ear: just as a tiny skiff trailing behind a mighty vessel, when the tempest rages, bears its small share of the waters' fury and is tossed in the self-same gale.

Twine now, ye Sisters, joyfully twine your threads of shining white! Let none reckon the measure of life already spent: this day is the birthday of life to be. Thou dost deserve to outlast the age-long lives of Troy,^d the Euboean Sibyl's dust and Nestor's mouldering decay. What censer of mine can avail, needy as I am, to supplicate for thee? Not if Mevania should empty her valleys or the fields of Clitumnus vouchsafed their snow-white bulls, were

•^d Priam or Tithonus, as in ii. 3. 73, v. 3. 256.

STATIUS

sufficiam sed saepe deis hos inter honores 130
caespes et exiguo placuerunt faria salmo.

V

BALNEUM CLAUDII ETRUSCI

Non Helicon gravi pulsat chelys enthea plectro,
nec lassata voco totiens mihi numina, Musas ;
et te, Phoebe, choris et te dimittimus, Euan,
tu quoque muta ferae, volucer Tegeae, sonorae
terga premas : alios poscunt mea carmina coetus. 5
Naidas, undarum dominas, regemque corusci
ignis adhuc fessum Siculaque incude rubentem
elicuisse satis. paulum arma nocentia, Thebae,
ponite dilecto volo lascivire sodah.
iunge, puer, cyathos—set ne numerare¹ labora— 10
cunctantemque intende chelyn : discede Laborque
Curaque, dum nitidis canimus gemmantia saxis
balnea dumque procax vittis hederisque, soluta
fronde verecunda.² Cho mea ludit Etrusco
ite, deae virides, liquidosque advertite vultus 15
et vitreum teneris crimen redimite corymbis,
veste nihil tectae, quales emergitis altis
fontibus et visu Satyros torquetis amantes.
non vos, quae culpa decus infamastis aquarum,

¹ set ne numerare *Scrivenerius* : et enumerare *M*, nec et *Postgate*.

² verecunda *Baehrens* : verecundo *M*.

^a Salt and roasted meal was the simplest form of sacrifice,
cf. Hor. *C.* iii. 23. 20. The turf formed the altar.

^b Mercury invented the lyre from the shell of a tortoise.

^c *i.e.*, Vulcan.

that sufficient. Yet amid such offerings a simple turf, some meal and a humble salt-cellar have oftentimes pleased the gods.^a

V. THE BATHS OF CLAUDIUS ETRUSCUS

The Baths of Claudius Etruscus were possibly on the Quirinal; they are mentioned by Martial (vi. 42). For their owner see note to Silv. iii. 3.

Not at Helicon's gates doth my harp resound in fierce, ecstatic melody, nor call I on the heavenly Muses, so often wearied by my prayer; thou Phoebus, and thou, Euan, art released from my choral song, and do thou, swift Tegean, keep in mute silence thy tuneful tortoise-shell^b: other choirs doth my song demand. 'Tis enough to lure the Naiads hither, queens of the wave, and the lord of the flashing fire, weary still and glowing with the Sicilian anvil's heat.^c Thebes, lay down thy sinful arms awhile^d: I would fain make revel for a friend I love. Cup after cup, lad!—nay, trouble not to count them! Tune the tardy lyre! Toil and Care, avaunt! while I sing of the baths that sparkle with bright marbles, and while my Cho, wantoning in ivy chaplets and free from the sober laurel, makes sport for Etruscus. Come then, ye Nymphs of the waters, turn hither your clear countenances and bind up your glass-green tresses with tender vine-shoots, your bodies all unclothed as when ye emerge from the deep springs and torture your Satyr-lovers with the sight. You, who with guilt have defamed the

^a He refers to his *Thebaid*, which recounted the impious strife of the brethren, Eteocles and Polynices.

STATIUS

sollicitare iuvat ; procul hinc et fonte doloso 20
 Salmacis et viduae Cebrenidos arida luctu
 flumina et Herculei praedatrix cedat alumni.
 vos mihi, quae Latum septenaque culmina, nymphae,
 incolitis Thybrimque novis attollitis undis,
 quas praeceps Anien atque exceptura natatus 25
 Virgo iuvat Marsasque nives et frigora ducens
 Marcia, praecelsis quarum vaga molibus unda
 crescit et innumero pendens transmittitur arcu— :
 vestrum opus aggredimur, vestra est. quam carmine
 molli 29
 pando, domus. non umquam aliis habitastis in antris
 ditius ipsa manus tenuit Cytherea mariti
 monstravitque artes : neu vilis flamma caminos
 ureret, ipsa faces volucrum succendit Amorum.
 non huc admissae Thasos aut undosa Carystos,
 maeret onyx longe, queriturque exclusus ophites : 35
 sola nitet flavis Nomadum decisa metallis
 purpura, sola cavo Phrygiae quam Synnados antro
 ipse cruentavit maculis lucentibus¹ Attis,
 quasque Tyrus² niveas secat et Sidonia rupes.
 vix locus Eurotae, viridis cum regula longo 40

¹ lucentibus *M*: lventibus *Pol.*, *Markland* : cf. *Apoll. Sid.* xxii. 137.

² quasque Tyrus *Dom.* : quoque tiri *M* : cumque Tyri *Vollmer* : quasque Tyrus niveas secuit *Lafaye* : quamque Paros niveam *Postgate* : quaeque Tyri vincas fucatam (*or*, fucum et quae) sindona rupes *Slater*. See also *C.R.* xx. pp. 38, 39.

^a Salmacis enticed Hermaphroditus into her waters and united herself indissolubly to him. Cebrenis is Oenone. Hylas, ward of Hercules, was drawn by a nymph into the spring where he was getting water.

^b Two famous aqueducts, excellent for swimming in and drinking respectively, from the purity of the one and the
 60

honour of the streams, I care not to solicit : far hence remove thou, O Salmacis, with thy deceiving fount, and the river of Cebrenis left forlorn, that grief made dry, and the ravisher of Hercules' young ward!^a But ye Nymphs who dwell in Latium and on the Seven Heights and make Thybris swell with your fresh waters, ye whom headlong Anio delights and the Maiden destined to welcome the swimmer, and Marcia that brings down the Marsian snow and cold,^b ye whose travelling waves flood through the lofty masonry and are carried high in air over countless arches—yours is the work I fain would sing, yours the home whereof my gentle verse doth tell. Never in other grottos dwelt ye more sumptuously. Cytherea herself guided her lord's hand, and taught him skill ; and that no baser flame might scorch the furnace, herself she kindled the brands of her winged Loves thereunder. Neither Thasos nor wave-lashed Carystos are suffered here ;^c far off the onyx mourns, and the serpent-stone rejected makes complaint ; only the porphyry gleams, hewn from the Nomads' tawny rocks, only that which in the hollow caves of Phrygian Synnas Attis bedewed with the bright drops of his own blood, and the snow-white cliffs that Tyre and Sidon quarry.^d Scarce is there space for stone from

coolness of the other. The " Maiden " fed several baths, including those of Agrippa. ^c See note on i. 2. 148.

^d No emendation of the text is convincing here. It is not certain whether there is any allusion to marble of Tyre and Sidon, of which nothing is otherwise known. The parallel in i. 2. 151 suggests rather a comparison with Tyrian dye, or, as Slater conjectures, with the purple " sindon " (linen garment) of a guest at the banquet ; hence he would read " quaeque Tyri vincas fucatam sindona rupes," " marble of a deeper purple than fine linen dyed at Tyre."

STATIUS

Synnada distinctu variat. non limina cessant,
 effulgent camerae, vario fastigia vitro
 in species animosque nitent. stupet ipse beatas
 circumplexus opes et parcius imperat ignis.
 multus ubique dies, radiis ubi culmina totis 45
 perforat atque alio sol improbus uritur aestu.
 nil ibi plebeium ; nusquam Temesaea notabis
 aera, sed argento felix propellitur unda
 argentoque cadit labrisque nitentibus instat
 delicias mirata suas et abire recusat. 50
 extra autem niveo qui margine caeruleus amnis
 vivit et in summum fundo¹ patet omnis ab imo,
 cui non ire lacu pigrosque exsolvere amictus
 suadeat ? hoc mallet nasci Cytherea profundo,
 hic te perspicuum melius, Narcisse, videres, 55
 hic velox Hecate velit et deprensa lavari.
 quid nunc strata solo referam tabulata crepantis
 auditura pilas, ubi languidus ignis inerrat
 aedibus et tenuem volvunt hypocausta vaporem ?
 nec si Baiamis veniat novus hospes ab oris, 60
 taha despiciet—fas sit componere magnis
 parva—Neronea nec qui modo lotus in unda.
 hic iterum sudare neget. macte, oro, nitenti
 ingenio curaque puer ! tecum ista senescant
 et tua iam melius discat fortuna renasci ! 65

¹ in summum fundo 5 : in fundum summo *M*.

^a See note on i. 1. 42.

^b The baths of Nero on the Campus Martius.

the Eurotas, where the long line of green picks out the marble of Synnas. The doorways yield not in splendour, the ceilings are radiant, the gables glitter with mosaics of pictured life. The very fire is astounded at the riches he encompasses, and tempers the fierceness of his sway. Everywhere is flooding light, where the sun pierces the roof with all his rays, and, spite of all his fierceness, is scorched by a heat that is not his own. Nought is common there, nowhere will you mark bronze of Temese,^a but from silver is the glad wave poured and into silver it falls, and marvelling at its own beauty stands poised upon the gleaming brim and refuses to go its way. But the dark-blue stream without, running gaily between snow-white banks, all clear to see from lowest depth to surface—whom would it not tempt to throw off his lazy robe and plunge into the water? From these deeps had Cytherea chosen to be born; here, Narcissus, hadst thou seen thyself more clearly; here would swift Hecate fain bathe, e'en though discovered. Why now should I tell of the floors laid upon the earth, destined to hear the noise of balls, where languidly creeps the warmth about the house and a scant haze rolls upward from the furnaces below? Such beauty would no guest despise, though fresh from the shore of Baiae, nor, if I may compare great things with small, would one who had bathed of late in Nero's baths^b refuse to sweat here once more. A blessing, Claudius, on thy brilliant cleverness and careful thought! may this work grow old with thee, and thy fortune learn to rise to a new and more glorious birth.

STATIUS

VI

KALENDAE DECEMBRES

Et Phoebus pater et severa Pallas
 et Musae procul ite feriatae :
 Iani vos revocabimus Kalendis.
 Saturnus mihi compede exsoluta
 et multo gravidus mero December 5
 et ridens Iocus et Sales protervi
 adsint, dum refero diem beatum
 laeti Caesaris ebriamque aparchen.¹
 Vix Aurora novos movebat ortus,
 iam bellaria² linea pluebant 10
 — hunc rorem veniens profudit eurus :
 quicquid nobile Ponticis nucetis,
 fecundis cadit aut iugis Idymes ;
 quod ramis pia germinat Damascos,
 et quod percoquit ebriosa Caunos,³ 15
 largis gratuitum cadit rapinis ;
 molles gaioli lucuntulique,
 et massis Amerina non perustis
 et mustaceus et latente palma
 praegnates caryotides cadebant. 20

¹ ebriamque aparchen (*i.e.* ἀπαρχήν, originally “first-fruits,” “first offering,” then “feast,” as in *Plut.* 40 B) *Phillimore*: parcen *M.*, pacem *Pol.*, noctem *R. Thomson*, etc. ² bellaria *S.*: vellaria *M.*

³ ebriosa Caunos *Waller*: aebosia caunos *M.*, aestuosa *Imhof*, Ebosea *Vollmer*, arbor Inda cannas *Ellis*, et quod praecoquit Ebosia cannis *Lafaye and Slater*.

^a Saturn was put in chains by Jupiter, but set free, according to popular belief, on his festival.

^b A rope was stretched across the amphitheatre, from

VI. THE KALENDS OF DECEMBER

An account of an entertainment given by the Emperor to the people during the Saturnalia. Suetonius (Domit. 4) mentions also chariot-races, sham fights, naval battles in the Amphitheatre, combats of gladiators, beasts, etc., and various distributions of money and food to the people.

Hence, father Phoebus and stern Pallas ! Away, ye Muses, go, keep holiday ; we will call you back at the New Year. But Saturn, shp your fetters ^a and come hither, and December tipsy with much wine, and laughing Mirth and wanton Wit, while I recount the glad festival of our merry Caesar and the banquet's drunken revel.

Scarce was the new dawn stirring, when already sweetmeats were raining from the line,^b such was the dew the rising East wind was scattering ; the famous fruit of Pontic nut-groves, or of Idume's fertile slopes,^c all that devout Damascus grows upon its boughs ^d or thirsty Caunus ^e ripens, falls in a generous profusion Biscuits and melting pastries,^f Amerian fruit ^g not over-ripe, must-cakes, and bursting dates from invisible palms were showering down.

which the dainties were shaken down among the people, *cf.* Mart viii 78. 7.

^a *i.e.*, dates ; Idume often in Statius for Palestine, *cf.* Luc. iii. 216.

^d *i.e.*, plums (damsons).

^e Caunus in Asia Minor was famous for its figs. *Ebosia*, the ms. reading, would refer to Ebusus, one of the Balearic isles, modern Iviza, which Pliny praises for its figs ; but the combination with Caunos, "the fig-town of Ebusus" (Vollmer), is awkward. Slater, following Lafaye (*Notes on the Silvae*, Paris, 1896), reads "et quod praecoquit Ebosia cannis."

^f So-called because they were in the shape of human figures, *i.e.* little "Gaii."

^g From America came apples and pears.

STATIUS

non tantis Hyas inserena nimbis
 terras obruit aut soluta Plias,
 qualis per cuneos hiems Latinos
 plebem grandine contudit serena.
 ducat nubila Iuppiter per orbem 25
 et latis pluvias minetur agris,
 dum nostri Iovis hi ferantur imbres.

Ecce autem caveas subit per omnis
 insignis specie, decora cultu
 plebes altera non minor sedente. 30
 hi panaria candidasque mappas
 subvectant epulasque lautiores ;
 illi marcida vina largiuntur :
 Idaeos totidem putes ministros.
 orbem, qua melior severiorque est, 35
 et gentes alis insimul¹ togatas,
 et cum tot populos, beate,² pascas,
 hunc Annona diem superba nescit.³
 i nunc saecula compara, Vetustas,
 antiqui Iovis aureumque tempus : 40
 non sic libera vina tunc fluebant
 nec tardum seges occupabat annum.
 una vescitur omnis ordo mensa,
 parvi, femina, plebs, eques, senatus :
 libertas reverentiam remisit. 45
 et tu quin etiam—quis hoc vacare,⁴
 quis promittere possit hoc deorum ?—
 nobiscum socias dapes inisti.
 iam se, quisquis is est, inops, beatus,
 convivam ducis esse gloriatur. 50

Hos inter fremitus novosque luxus
 spectandi levis effugit voluptas :

¹ insimul *ς* : insemel *M*.

² beate *Hessius and Lafaye* : beata *M*.

Not with such torrents do stormy Hyades o'erwhelm the earth or Pleiades dissolved in rain, as the hail that from a sunny sky lashed the people in the theatre of Rome. Let Jupiter send his tempests through the world and threaten the broad fields, while our own Jove sends us showers like these !

But lo ! another multitude, handsome and well-dressed, as numerous as that upon the benches, makes its way along all the rows. Some carry baskets of bread and white napkins and more luxurious fare ; others serve languorous wine in abundant measure ; so many cupbearers of Ida ^a would you think them. Thou dost nourish alike the circle of the noble and austere and the folk that wear the toga, and since, O generous lord, thou dost feed so many multitudes, haughty Annona knoweth nought of this festival.^b Come now, Antiquity, compare with ours the age of primeval Jove and the times of gold : less bounteously then did the vintage flow, not thus did the harvest anticipate the tardy year. One table serves every class alike, children, women, people, knights, and senators : freedom has loosed the bonds of awe. Nay even thyself—what god could have such leisure, or vouchsafe as much ?—thou didst come and share our banquet. And now everyone, be he rich or poor, boasts himself the Emperor's guest.

Amid such excitements and strange luxuries the pleasure of the scene flies quickly by : women un-

^a *i.e.*, so many Ganymedes.

^b The feast is free and gratis, therefore the *price* of bread has nothing to do with it.

³ nescit *M* : nescis *5*.

⁴ vacare *Phyllimore* : vocare *M* : vocari *Ettigius*.

STATIUS

stat sexus rudis insciusque ferri ;
 ut pugnas capit improbus viriles !
 credas ad Tanain ferumque Phasim 55
 Thermodontiacas calere turmas.
 hic audax subit ordo pumilorum,
 quos natura brevis statim peracta
 nodosum semel in globum ligavit.
 edunt vulnere conseruntque dextras 60
 et mortem sibi—qua manu !—minantur.
 ridet Mars pater et cruenta Virtus
 casuraeque vagis grues rapinis
 mirantur pugiles¹ ferociore.
 Iam noctis propioribus sub umbris 65
 dives sparsio quos agit tumultus !
 hic intrant faciles emi puellae,
 hic agnoscitur omne, quod theatri
 aut forma placet aut probatur arte.
 hoc plaudunt grege Lydiae tumentes, 70
 illic cymbala tinnulaeque Gades,
 illic agmina confremunt Syrorum,
 hic plebs scenica quique comminutis
 permutant vitreis gregale sulphur.
 Inter quae subito cadunt volatu 75
 immensae volucrum per astra nubes,
 quas Nilus sacer horridusque Phasis,
 quas udo Numidae legunt sub austro.
 desunt qui rapiant sinusque pleni
 gaudent, dum nova lucra comparantur. 80
 tollunt innumeras ad astra voces
 Saturnalia principis sonantes

trained to the sword take their stand, daring, how recklessly, men's battles! you would think Thermo-
modon's bands ^a were furiously fighting by Tanais or barbarous Phasis. Then comes a bold array of dwarfs, whose term of growth abruptly ended has bound them once for all into a knotted lump. They give and suffer wounds, and threaten death—with fists how tiny! Father Mars and Bloodstained Valour laugh, and cranes,^b waiting to swoop on scattered booty, marvel at the fiercer pugilists.

Now as the shades of night draw on, what commotion attends the scattering of largess! Here enter maidens easily bought; here is recognized all that in theatres wins favour or applause for skill or beauty. Here a crowd of buxom Lydian girls are clapping hands, here tinkle the cymbals of Cadiz, there troops of Syrians are making uproar, there are theatre-folk and they who barter common sulphur for broken glass.^c

Amid the tumult dense clouds of birds swoop suddenly down through the air, birds from holy Nile ^d and frost-bound Phasis, birds that Numidians capture 'neath the dripping South. Too few are there to seize them all, exultantly they grasp their fill and ever clutch fresh plunder. Countless voices are raised to heaven, acclaiming the Emperor's festival; with

^a *i.e.*, Amazons.

^b These dwarfs seem fiercer fighters than the old enemies of the cranes, viz. the Pygmies (Hom. *Il.* iii. 3).

^c Rag-and-bone men plying the same trade are mentioned by Martial, i. 41. 4. For sulphur matches cf. also Martial, x. 3. 3.

^d Flamingos (Nile), pheasants (Phasis), guinea-fowl (Numidia).

STATIUS

et dulci dominum favore clamant :
hoc solum vetuit licere Caesar.

Vixdum caerulea nox subibat orbem, 85

descendit media nitens harena
densas flammeus orbis inter umbras
vincens Gnosiacae facem coronae.

conlucet polus ignibus nihilque
obscurae patitur licere nocti. 90

fugit pigra Quies inersque Somnus
haec cernens alias abit in urbes.

quis spectacula, quis iocos licentes,
quis convivium, quis dapies inemptas,
largi flumina quis canat Lyaei ? 95

iam iam deficio tuoque Baccho¹
in serum trahor ebrius soporem.

Quos ibit procul hic dies per annos !
quam nullo sacer exolescet aeo¹
dum montes Latii paterque Thybris, 100
dum stabit tua Roma dumque terris
quod reddis Capitolium manebit.

¹ tuoque Baccho 5 : tuaque Baccho *M.*

loving enthusiasm they salute their Lord. This liberty ^a alone did Caesar forbid them

Scarce was dusky night shrouding the world, when through the dense gloom a ball of flame fell gleaming into the arena's midst, surpassing the brightness of the Gnosian crown.^b The sky was ablaze with fire, and suffered not the reign of darkness · sluggish Quiet fled, and lazy Sleep betook himself to other cities at the sight. Who can sing of the spectacle, the unrestrained mirth, the banqueting, the unbought feast, the lavish streams of wine? Ah! now I faint, and drunken with thy liquor drag myself at last to sleep.

For how many years shall this festival abide!
Never shall age destroy so holy a day! While the hills of Latium remain and father Tiber, while thy Rome stands and the Capitol thou hast restored to the world, it shall continue.

^a *i.e.*, to salute him as "Dominus" · for Domitian's titles of "Dominus et Deus" see Suet. *Dom* 13.

^b The constellation called Ariadne's crown.

LIBER II

STATIUS MELIORI SUO SALUTEM

Et familiaritas nostra qua gaudeo, Melior, vir optime nec minus in iudicio litterarum quam in omni vitae colore tersissime, et ipsa opusculorum quae tibi trado condicio sic posita est ut totus hic ad te¹ liber meus etiamsine epistola spectet.² Primum enim habet Glauciam nostrum, cuius gratissima infantia³ et qualem plerumque infelices sortiuntur (apud te complexus amabam) iam non tibi. Huius amissi recens vulnus, ut scis, epicedio prosecutus sum adeo festinanter, ut excusandam habuerim affectibus tuis celeritatem. Nec nunc eam apud te iacto, qui nosti, sed et ceteris indico, ne quis asperiore lima carmen examinet et a confuso scriptum et dolenti datum, cum paene supervacua sint tarda solacia. Polh mei villa Surrentina quae sequitur, debuit a me vel in honorem eloquentiae eius diligentius dici, sed amicus ignovit. In arborem certe tuam, Melior, et psittacum scis a me leves libellos quasi epigrammatis loco scriptos. Eandem exigebat

¹ ad te *Vollmer*: altae *M*, alter *5*.

² spectet *Baehrens*: expectet *M*. (*Baehr. inserted* ad te *before* spectet.)

³ gratissima infantia *M*: gratissimam infantiam *5*..

BOOK II

STATIUS TO HIS FRIEND MELIOR : GREETING !

Not only our friendship wherein I take such pleasure, my excellent Melior, who are as faultless in your literary judgement as in every phase of life, but also the actual circumstances of the poems I am presenting to you are responsible for the whole of this book of mine being directed towards you, even without an introductory letter. For its first subject is our beloved Glaucias, whose charming infancy—a charm so often bestowed on the unfortunate—is lost to you now; I loved him when I took him in my arms at your house. While that wound was yet fresh, I wrote as you know a poem of consolation, with such dispatch that I felt my promptness owed an apology to your feelings. Nor am I boasting of it now to you who know, but warning others not to criticize too sharply a poem written in distress and sent to one in sorrow, seeing that sympathy must be timely or else superfluous. The Surrentine Villa of my friend Pollio which follows should have been written with greater care if only in honour of his eloquent tongue, but he has displayed a friend's indulgence. Certainly the trifling pieces on your tree, Melior, and on the parrot were as you know dashed off like epigrams. A like facility of pen was

STATIUS

stili facilitatem leo mansuetus, quem in amphitheatro prostratum frigidum erat, sacratissimo Imperatori ni statim traderem Ad Ursum quoque nostrum, iuvenem candidissimum et sine iactura desidia doctissimum, scriptam de amisso puero consolationem super ea quae ipsi debeo huic libro libenter inserui, quia honorem eius tibi laturus accepto est. Cludit¹ volumen genethliacon Lucani, quod Polla Argentaria, rarissima uxorum, cum hunc diem forte consuleremus, imputari sibi voluit. Ego non potui maiorem tanti auctoris habere reverentiam quam quod laudes eius dicturus hexametros meos timui. haec qualiacumque sunt, Melior carissime, si tibi non displicuerint, a te publicum accipiant; si minus, ad me revertantur.

¹ est. cludit *Madvig*: excludit *M*

SILVAE, II.

demanding by the Tame Lion, for had I not presented him to His Most Sacred Majesty while still lying in the amphitheatre, all the effect would have been missed. Then there is the consolatory piece I wrote on the loss of his slave-boy for our friend *Ursus*, a youth of blameless life and an accomplished poet, who wastes no time in idleness; I was glad to include it in this book, quite apart from the debt I owe to him, for he will credit you with the honour he derives therefrom. The volume is concluded by the Birthday Ode to *Lucan*, for which *Polla Argentaria*, rarest of wives, desired to be held accountable, when we happened to be considering the celebration of the day. I could not show a deeper reverence for so great a poet than by distrusting my own hexameters when about to sing his praises. These pieces, my excellent *Mehor*, such as they are, if you like them, give them to the world. if not, let them return to me.

STATIUS

I

GLAUCIAS ATEDII MELIORIS DELICATUS

Quod tibi praerepti, Melior, solamen alumni,
improbus ante rogos et adhuc vivente favilla
ordiar ? abruptis etiam nunc flebile venis
vulnus hiat, magnaëque patet via lubrica plagae.
cum iam egomet cantus et verba medentia saevus 5
consero, tu planctus lamentaque fortia mavis
odistique chelyn surdaque averteris aure.
intempesta cano : citius me tigris abactis
fetibus orbatique velint audire leones.
nec si tergemnum Sicula de virgine carmen 10
affluat aut silvis chelys intellecta ferisque,
mulceat insanos gemitus. stat pectore demens
luctus et admoto latrant praecordia tactu.

Nemo vetat : satiare malis aegrumque dolorem
libertate doma. iam flendi expleta voluptas 15
iamque preces fessus non indignaris amicas ?

^a *i.e.*, the wound in all its length, a "path" leading to a vital spot.

^b The Sirens, whose number is variously given as two or as three ; in ii. 2. 1, Statius places them at Sorrento. -

I. GLAUCIAS, THE FAVOURITE OF
ATEDIUS MELIOR

In this and the following Epicedia Statius shows the influence both of philosophic consolation such as we see it in Seneca, or the Consolatio ad Liviam, and also of the rhetorical schools with their ἐπιτάφιοι and παραμυθητικοί, divided into regular parts, such as Praise of the departed, description of the illness and death, description of the burial, welcome of the soul of the dead one in the under-world, etc. Statius's treatment is free, as in the Epithalamium; mythological allusion is frequent, and was undoubtedly part of the poetic convention of the time, and therefore should not be condemned as frigid and implying a lack of true feeling. The reader may compare earlier poems of the same kind, e.g. Horace, C. i. 24; Propertius, iii. 18, iv. 11, Ovid, Am iii. 9. Two poems of Martial (vi. 28, 29) were also written on the same occasion.

How can I begin to console thee, Melior, for thy foster-son untimely taken? How can I heartlessly sing before the pyre, while the ashes are still aglow? The lamentable wound gapes wide with sundered veins, and the dangerous path of the great gash lies open.^a Even while I relentlessly compose my spells and healing words, thou dost prefer to beat the breast and cry aloud, and hatest my lyre and turnest away with deaf ear. Untimely is my song: sooner would a despoiled lioness or tigress robbed of her cubs give ear to me. Not if the triple chant of the Sicilian maidens^b were wafted hither, or the harp that beasts and woodlands understood, would they soothe thy distracted wailing. Demented Grief hath his stand in thy heart; at a touch thy breast heaves and sobs.

Have thy fill of bitterness: none forbids thee. Overcome, by giving it rein, the malady of thy distress. At last is thy luxury of weeping sated? At last art thou wearied out and deignest to hear a

STATIUS

iamne canam ? lacrimis en et mea carmina in ipso
 ore¹ natant tristesque cadunt in verba liturae.
 ipse etenim tecum nigrae solemnna pompae
 spectatumque Urbis scelus et puerile feretrum 20
 produxi, saevos damnati turis acervos
 plorantemque animam supra sua funera vidi,
 teque patrum gemitus superantem et brachia matrum
 complexumque rogos ignemque haurire parantem
 vix tenui similis comes offendique tenendo. 25
 et nunc, heu, vittis et frontis honore soluto
 infaustus vates versa mea pectora tecum
 plango lyra, sed tu² comitem sociumque doloris,
 si merui luctusque tui consortia sensi,
 iam lenis patiare precor. me fulmine in ipso 30
 audivere patres, ego iuxta busta profusis
 matribus atque piis cecini solacia natis
 et mihi, cum proprios gemerem defectus ad ignes
 —quem, Natura !—patrem. nec te lugere severus
 arceo, sed confer gemitus pariterque fleamus. 35
 Iamdudum dignos aditus laudumque tuarum,
 o merito dilecte puer, primordia quaerens
 distrahor. hinc anni stantes in limine vitae,
 hinc me forma rapit, rapit inde modestia praecox
 et pudor et tenero probitas maturior aevo. 40
 o ubi purpureo suffusus sanguine candor
 sidereiue orbes radiataque lumina caelo
 et castigatae collecta modestia frontis

¹ carmina in ipso ore *M*: carmine in ipso ora *Friedrich*.

² sed tu *Vollmer*: et diu *M*, at diri *S*, at dici *Slater*.

^a The souls of those untimely dead were supposed to bewail their lot, *cf.* Virg. *Aen.* vi. 427 "infantumque animae

friend's entreaty? Now shall I sing? Lo! even in my mouth my song is choked with sobs, the words are blotted by falling tears. For I myself led forth with thee the solemn line of sable mourners and the boyish bier, a crime for the City to behold; I saw the cruel heaps of incense doomed to destruction and the soul wailing above its own corpse^a; thee too, as thou didst break through sobbing fathers and mothers that would stay thee, and didst embrace the pyre and prepare to swallow the flames, could I scarce restrain, thy comrade in like case, and offended by restraining. And now, alas! a bard of evil, my fillets unbound and the glory departed from my brow, I reverse my lyre and beat my breast with thee; but be assuaged, I pray thee, and suffer me as partner of thy mourning, if I have so deserved and shared thy sorrow. In the very hour of calamity fathers have heard my voice; by the very pyre have I sung solace to prostrate mothers and loving children—ay, to myself also, when swooning beside kindred flames I mourned, O Nature, what a father! Nor do I sternly forbid thee to lament; nay, let us mingle our tears and weep together.

Long have I sought distractedly, beloved boy, a worthy approach and prelude to thy praises. Here thy boyhood, standing on life's threshold, calls me, there thy beauty, there a modesty beyond thy years and honour and probity too ripe for thy tender age. Ah! where is that fair complexion flushed by the glow of health, those starry orbs whose glance is radiant with heaven's light, where the chaste com-

flentes." For souls hovering about the funeral pyre *cf.* *Theb.* v. 163, xii. 55: they are often so represented on Attic vases,

STATIUS

ingenuique super crines mollisque decorae 44
 margo comae ? blandis ubinam ora arguta querelis
 osculaque impliciti vernos redolentia flores
 et mixtae risu lacrimae penitusque loquentis
 Hyblaeis vox mixta favis ? cui sibila serpens
 poneret et sacvae vellent servire novercae.
 nil veris adfingo bonis. heu lactea colla ! 50
 brachia, quo¹ numquam domini sine pondere cervix !
 o ubi venturae spes non longinqua iuventae
 atque genis optatus honos iurataque multum
 barba tibi ? cuncta in cineres gravis intulit hora
 hostilisque dies : nobis meminisse relictum. 55
 quis tua colloquiis hilaris mulcebit amatis
 pectora ? quis curas mentisque arcana remittet ?
 accensum quis bile fera famulusque tumentem²
 leniet ardentique in se deflectet ab ira ?
 inceptas quis ab ore dapes libataque vina 60
 auferet et dulci turbabit cuncta rapina ?
 quis matutinos abrumpet murmure somnos
 impositus stratis abitusque morabitur artis
 nexibus atque ipso revocabit ad oscula poste³ ?
 obviu intranti rursus quis in ora manusque 65
 prosiliet brevibusque umeros circumdabit ulnis ?
 muta domus, fateor, desolatique penates,
 et situs in thalamis et maesta silentia mensis !
 Quid mirum, tanto si te pius altor honorat
 funere ? tu domino requies portusque senectae, 70

¹ brachia, quo *Softien* : brachiaque *M.*

² tumentem *Pol. (from P)* : timentem *M.*

³ ipso . . . poste *S* : ipsos . . . postes *M.*

posure of that low ^a brow, the artless curls above and the soft line of lovely hair ? Where is the mouth that prattled with fond complainings, those kisses redolent, as he clung, of vernal blossoms, his tears mingled with smiles, and his accents steeped in Hybla's honey ? A serpent would hush its hissing and cruel stepdames be fain to do his bidding. Nothing false do I add to his true beauty. Alas ! that milk-white throat ! those arms that were ever about his master's neck ! Where now is that not far distant hope of coming manhood, the longed-for glory of his cheeks, that beard that thou oft didst swear by ? The remorseless hour and Time the enemy have swept all to ashes : to us is left but to remember. Who will beguile thy thoughts with the merry chatter thou didst love ? who will allay thy cares and brooding mind ? Who will appease thee when incensed with angry passion and storming at the serving-folk, and divert thee from thy fury to himself ? Who, when the feast is begun and the wine poured out, will snatch it away e'en from thy lips and confound all things in delightful rapine ? Who will climb on thy couch in the morning and whisper thee awake, and clasping thee tight delay thy going, and from the very gate recall thee to his kisses ? Who will be the first to meet thee on thy return, and leap to thy kiss and thy embrace, and put his tiny arms about thy shoulders ? Mute is the house, I vow, and lonely the hearth ; desolation is in the chambers and a drear silence at the board

What wonder if thy good foster-father honours thee with so grand a funeral ? thou wert to thy lord (= "controlled, narrowed down") is used of a horse's mane, *Theb.* ix. 687 ; cf. also vi. 872, *Ov. Am.* i. 5. 21.

STATIUS

tu modo deliciae, dulces modo pectore curae.
 non te barbaricae versabat turbo catastae,
 nec mixtus Phariis venalis mercibus infans
 compositosque sales meditataque verba locutus
 quaesisti lascivus erum tardeque parasti. 75
 hic domus, hinc ortus, dominique penatibus olim
 carus uterque parens atque in tua gaudia liber,
 ne quererere genus. raptum sed protinus alvo
 sustulit exsultans ac prima lucida voce
 astra salutantem dominus sibi mente dicavit, 80
 amplexusque sinu tulit et genuisse putavit.
 fas mihi sanctorum venia dixisse parentum,
 tuque, oro, Natura, sinas, cui prima per orbem
 iura animis sancire datum : non omnia sanguis
 proximus aut serie generis demissa propago 85
 allgat ; interius nova saepe adscitaque serpunt
 pignora conexis natos genuisse necesse est,
 elegisse iuvat. tenero sic blandus Achilli
 semifer Haemonium vincebat Pelea Chiron.
 nec senior Peleus natum comitatus in arma 90
 Troica, sed claro Phoenix haerebat alumno.
 optabat longe reditus Pallantis ovantis
 Evander, fidus pugnas spectabat Acoetes.
 cumque procul nitidis genitor cessaret ab astris,
 fluctivagus volucrem comebat Persea Dictys. 95
 quid referam altricum victas pietate parentes ?
 quid te post cineres deceptaque funera matris

^a Such as slaves were commonly displayed on.

^b The "lifting-up" of a new-born child by the father signified his recognition of it as his own. On this occasion Melior shows that he has adopted the child.

^c The son of Danae by Zeus. Dictys was a fisherman of Seriphus, the island to which Danae and her babe were

the peaceful haven of his old age, thou wert now his delight, now the sweet object of his care. No outlandish revolving stage^a turned thee about, no slave-boy wert thou amid Egyptian wares, to utter studied jests and well-conned speeches, and by impudent tricks to seek and slowly win a master. Here was thy home, here wast thou born, both thy parents have long been loved in their master's house, and for thy joy were they freed, lest thou shouldst complain of thy birth. Nay, no sooner wert thou taken from the womb, when thy lord exultantly raised thee,^b and as thy first cry greeted the shining stars appointed thee for his own and held thee close in his bosom and deemed himself thy sire. May the sanctities of parents forgive my words, and do thou suffer me, O Nature, to whom it is given to hallow the earliest ties between soul and soul throughout the world : bonds of blood and lineage are not all ; often do alien or adopted children creep further into our hearts than our own kindred. Of necessity we beget sons, of our pleasure do we choose them. Thus by his winning ways the half-beast Chiron supplanted Haemonian Peleus in young Achilles' favour. Nor did the aged Peleus accompany his son to the fight at Troy, but 'twas Phoenix that stirred not from his pupil's side. Far off Evander prayed for Pallas' victorious return, but faithful Acoetes watched the combat. And when his sire for idleness came not from the shining stars, wave-wandering Dictys tended the winged Perseus.^c Why should I speak of mothers surpassed in their affection by foster-nurses ? Why of thee, O Bacchus, who when a treacherous doom had washed in the wooden chest "volucrum" refers to the winged sandals given him by Hermes to fight Medusa.

STATIUS

tutius Inoo reptantem pectore, Bacche ?
 iam secura patris Tuscis regnabat in undis
 Itha, portantem lassabat Romulus Accam 100
 vidi ego transertos alieno in robore ramos
 altius ire suis. et te iam fecerat illi
 mens animusque patrem, necdum moresve decorve :
 tu tamen et iunctas¹ etiam nunc murmure voces
 vagitumque rudem fletusque infantis amabas. 105

Ille, velut primos exspiraturus ad austros
 mollibus in pratis alte flos improbus exstat,
 sic tener ante diem vultu gressuque superbo
 vicerat aequales multumque reliquerat annos.
 sive catenatis curvatus membra palaestris 110
 staret. Amyclaea conceptum matre putares,
 Oebaliden illo praeceps mutaret Apollo,
 Alcides pensaret Hylan ; seu Graius² amictu
 Attica facundi decurreret orsa Menandri :
 laudaret gavisam sonum crinemque decorum 115
 fregisset rosea lasciva Thalia corona ;
 Maeonium sive ille senem Troiaequae labores
 diceret aut casus tarde remeantis Ulixis :
 ipse pater sensus, ipsi stupuere magistri.
 scilicet infausta Lachesis cunabula dextra 120
 attigit, et gremio puerum complexa fovebat
 Invidia : illa genas et adultum comere crinem,
 haec monstrare artes et verba infigere, quae nunc
 plangimus. Herculeos annis aequare labores

¹ iunctas *M2* : vinctas *M* : truncas *Baehrens*.

² Graius *S* : gratus *M*.

^a She was the sister of Semele, the mother of Bacchus.

^b Itha (see note on i. 2. 192) was drowned in the Anio by her father Amulius, but became the wife of the river-god. Acca was the nurse of Romulus.

laid thy mother in ashes nestled more securely in Ino's bosom ? ^a And when Itha, fearing her sire no more, reigned a queen in Tuscan waters, ^b Romulus was burdening Acca's arms. I have seen myself shoots grafted on another tree grow higher than their own. And already had thy will and purpose, Melior, made thee his sire, though not yet his charm and goodness ; nevertheless thou didst love the words even now mingled with his utterance, and his rude infant cries and tears.

He, like a flower that is doomed to perish at the first breath of the South wind, yet with reckless daring lifts high its head in the lush meadow, young as he was had early surpassed his peers in pride of step and countenance, and had far outstripped his years. Did he stand with limbs bent in the locked wrestling-bout, you would have deemed him born of an Amyclæan mother ^c ; Apollo would soon have exchanged for him the son of Oebalus, ^d Alcides had bartered Hylas ; if in Grecian dress he declaimed the Attic speech of fluent Menander, Thalia would have rejoiced and praised his accents, and in wanton mood have disordered his comely locks with a rosy garland ; or if he recited the old Maeonian and the toils of Troy, or the mishaps and slow returning of Ulysses, his very father, his very teachers were amazed at his understanding. Truly did Lachesis ^e touch his cradle with ill-omened hand, and Envy clasped the babe and held him in her bosom : the one fondled his cheeks and luxuriant curls, the other taught him his skill and inspired those words over which we now make moan. His rising years, though

^c *i.e.*, Spartan, the Spartan youths being famed for their wrestling. ^d *i.e.*, Narcissus. ^e One of the Fates.

STATIUS

coeperat adsurgens, sed adhuc infantia iuxta ; 125
 iam tamen et validi gressus mensuraque maior
 cultibus et visae puero decrescere vestes,
 cum tibi quas vestes, quae non gestamina mitis
 festinabat erus ! brevibus non stringere¹ laenis
 pectora et angustante alas² artare lacerna ; 130
 enormes non ille sinus, sed semper ad annos
 texta legens modo puniceo velabat amictu,
 nunc herbas imitante sinu, nunc dulce rubenti
 murice, nunc vivis digitos incendere gemmis
 gaudebat : non turba comes, non munera cessant : 135
 sola verecundo deerat praetexta decori.

Haec fortuna domus. subitas inimica levavit
 Parca manus. quo, diva, feros gravis exseris unguēs ?
 non te forma movet, non te lacrimabilis aetas ?
 hunc nec saeva viro potuisset carpere Procne, 140
 nec fera crudeles Colchis durasset in iras,
 editus Aeolia nec si foret iste Creusa ;
 torvus ab hoc Athamas insanos flecteret arcus,
 hunc quamquam Hectoreos cineres Troiamque per-
 osus
 turribus e Phrygiis flectet missurus Ulixes 145
 septima lux, et iam frigentia lumina torpent,
 iam complexa manu crinem tenet infera Iuno.

¹ non stringere *Postgate* : constringere *M.*

² angustante alas *Postgate* : angusta telas *M.*

^a Or, keeping the ms. reading, translate "he would fasten a short tunic on thy chest, and contract the web with a narrow cloak." *Cf. Theb.* vi. 74 ff. In any case the meaning, first made clear by Macnaghten (*Journ. Phil.*, 1891), is that Glaucias was always given clothes which fitted exactly, neither too large nor too small.

^b The toga with a purple border, worn by free-born children up to the age of 16. Glaucias was slave-born.

infancy still was near, had begun to draw level with the toils of Hercules; yet already was he firm of stride, and his height outstripped his dress, and the garments seemed to shrink upon the lad, for what garments, what apparel did not thy kindly lord hasten to procure thee? He constrained not thy breast in a narrow tunic,^a nor cramped thy shoulders in a straitening cloak; nor did he drape thee in large, ill-fitting folds, but ever suiting the raiment to thy years now garbed thee in scarlet, now in grass-green clothing, now in the soft blush of purple, or rejoiced to kindle the flash of gems upon thy fingers; unfailing was thy attendant train, unfailing were his gifts; the bordered robe^b alone was lacking to thy modest beauty.

Such was the fortune of that house. Suddenly Fate lifted her hand to strike. Wherefore, O goddess, dost thou banefully unsheathe those cruel talons? Doth not his beauty move thee, or his piteous tender age? Fierce Procne would not have had the heart to rend him for her lord, nor would the savage Colchian have persisted in her cruel ire, even though he had been the son of Aeolian Creusa; from him would grim Athamas have turned aside his maddened bow; Ulysses though hating Hector's ashes and Troy full sore would have wept to hurl him from the Phrygian towers.^c 'Tis the seventh day, and already those eyes are dull and cold, and Juno of the underworld hath clasped him and seized

^a Procne slew her son Itys and gave him as food to her husband Tereus; Medea was deserted by Jason for Creusa; Aeolian = Corinthian, because Sisyphus, King of Corinth, was son of Aeolus, *cf.* "Sisyphii portus," *Theb.* ii. 380; Athamas in madness slew his son Learchus; Astyanax, son of Hector, was flung by Ulysses from the walls of Troy.

STATIUS

ille tamen, Parcis fragiles urgentibus annos,
 te vultu moriente videt linguaque cadente
 murmurat : in te omnes vacui iam pectoris efflat 150
 reliquias, solum meminit solumque vocantem
 exaudit tibi que ora movet, tibi verba relinquit
 et prohibet gemitus consolaturque dolentem.
 gratum est, Fata, tamen, quod non mors lenta iacentis
 exedit puerile decus, manesque subivit 155
 integer et nullo temeratus corpora damno,
 qualis erat.

Quid ego exsequias et prodiga flammis
 dona loquar maestoque ardentia funera luxu ?
 quod tibi purpureo tristis rogos aggere crevit,
 quod Cilicum flores, quod munera graminis Indi, 160
 quodque Arabes Phariique Palaestinique¹ liquores
 arsuram lavere comam ? cupit omnia ferre
 prodigus et totos Melior succendere census,
 desertas exosus opes ; sed non capit ignis
 invidus, atque artae desunt in munera flammae. 165
 horror habet sensus. qualem te funere summo
 atque rogi iuxta, Melior placidissime quondam,
 extimui¹ tune ille hilaris comisque videri ?
 unde animi saevaeque manus et barbarus horror,
 dum modo fusus humi lucem aversaris iniquam, 170
 nunc torvus pariter vestes et pectora rumpis
 dilectosque premis visus et frigida lambis
 oscula ? erant illic genitor materque iacentis
 maesta, sed attoniti te spectavere parentes. 174
 quid mirum ? plebs cuncta nefas et praevia flerunt
 agmina, Flaminio quae limite Molvius agger

¹ Palaestinique *Selden* : palam est vidique *M.*

^a Saffron, frankincense.

^b Myrrh, balsam.

in her hand the lock of hair. Yet he, though the Fates press hard upon his frail life, beholds thee with his dying vision and murmurs thy name with faltering tongue; to thee he gasps out the last breath from his exhausted frame, thee alone he remembers, thy cry alone he hears, for thee his lips are moved and his last words spoken, as he bids thee not to mourn and consoles thy grief. Yet we thank thee, O Fate, that no lingering death devoured his boyish charm as he lay, that he went inviolate to the shades, just as he was, without touch of harm upon his body.

Why should I tell of the funeral rites, the gifts flung prodigally to the flames, the melancholy pomp of the blazing pyre? How thou didst heap the purples high on the sad pile, how Cilician blooms and gifts of Indian herbs,^a and juices of Arabia and Palestine and Egypt^b steeped the hair that was to burn? Fain would Mehor bring all without stinting, and consume whole fortunes in loathing of his wealth laid desolate; but the grudging fire avails not, and the puny flames are too few to burn the gifts. Awe lays hold upon my heart. O Mehor, once so calm, how distraught wert thou in that deadly hour beside the pyre, how I feared thee! Was that the merry, kindly face we knew? Whence that frenzy, those merciless hands, those spasms of wild grief as thou liest prostrate on the ground shunning the cruel light, or fiercely tearest thy clothes and bosom, straining the dear face to thee and kissing the cold lips? The father and sorrowing mother of the dead one were there, but on thee they gazed awe-stricken—what wonder? All the people mourned the deadly blow, and crowds escorted thee on the Flaminian road

STATIUS

transvehit, immeritus flammis dum tristibus infans
traditur, et gemitum formaque aevoque¹ meretur :
talis in Isthmiacos prolatus ab aequore portus
naufragus imposita iacuit sub matre Palaemon ; 180
sic et in anguiferae ludentem gramine Lernae
rescissum squamis avidus bibit ignis² Ophelten.

Pone metus Letique minas desiste vereri :
illum nec terno latrabit Cerberus ore,
nulla soror flammis, nulla adsurgentibus hydrys 185
terrebit ; quin ipse avidae trux navita cumbae
interius steriles ripas et adusta subibit
litora, ne puero dura ascendisse facultas.

Quid mihi gaudenti proles Cyllenia virga 189
nuntiat ? estne aliquid tam saevo in tempore laetum ?
noverat effigies generosique ardua Blaesi
ora puer, dum saepe domi nova sarta ligantem
te videt et similes tergentem pectore ceras.
hunc ubi Lethaei lustrantem gurgitis oras
Ausonios inter proceres seriemque Qurini 195
adgnovit, timide primum vestigia iungit
accessu tacito summosque lacessit amictus,
inde magis sequitur ; neque enim magis ille
trahentem

spernit et ignota credit de stirpe nepotum.
mox ubi delicias et rari pignus amici 200
sensit et amissi puerum solacia Blaesi,
tollit humo magnaue ligat cervice diuque

¹ aevoque *Gulielmus* : ac voce *M.*

² ignis *Koestlin* : anguis *M.*

^a See *Theb.* vi. 54 *sqq.*

^b *i e.*, no Fury. The Furies, often called by Statius "the Sisters," are represented with torches and snaky hair.

^c Mercury, who conducted the souls of the dead to the underworld.

across the Mulvian bridge, while an innocent child is given over to the angry flames, and both by his age and by his beauty wins their tears. Such was Palaemon, when his mother flung herself on him as he lay shipwrecked and cast up from the sea in the Isthmian haven; such too Opheltes, whom the serpent tore as he played in the snake-haunted grass of Lerna, when the greedy fire consumed him.^a

But lay aside thy fears, and be no more in dread of threatening Death: Cerberus with triple jaws will not bark at him, no Sister^b will terrify him with flames and towering hydras; nay, even the grim sailor of the greedy boat will draw nearer to the barren shores and fire-scorched bank, that the boy's embarking may be easy.

What message brings the son of Cyllene,^c waving a glad wand? Can there be aught of joy in so terrible a time? Well did the lad know the likeness and lofty countenance of noble Blaesus, for often had he seen thee at home twining fresh garlands and pressing that image to thy breast. And when he recognized him among the Ausonian nobles and the lineage of Quirinus pacing the shores of Lethe's stream, he silently drew near and first walked beside him timidly and plucked at his garment's edge, then followed him more boldly, for as he more boldly plucked the other spurned him not, but thought him an unknown scion of his house. Soon when he knew that the boy was the darling and favourite of a friend so rare, the solace for his lost Blaesus,^d he raised him from the ground and fastened him about his mighty

^a The points seems to be that the boy himself was "blaesus," i.e. "stammering," being still under 12, and was so a consolation to Melior for his friend Blaesus.

STATIUS

ipse manu gaudens vehit et, quae munera mollis
 Elysii, steriles ramos mutasque volucres
 porgit et obtunso pallentes germine flores. 205
 nec prohibet meminisse tui, sed pectora blandus
 miscet et alternum pueri partitur amorem.

Hic finis raptō. quoniam tu iam vulnera sedas
 et tollis mersum luctu caput? omnia functa
 aut moritura vides: obeunt noctesque diesque 210
 astraque, nec solidis prodest sua machina terris.
 nam populus mortale genus plebisque caducae
 quis fleat interitus? hos bella, hos aequora poscunt;
 his amor exitio, furor his et saeva cupido,
 ut sileam morbos; hos ora regentia Brumae, 215
 illos implacido letalis Sirius igni,
 hos manet imbrifero pallens Autumnus hiatu.
 quicquid init ortus, finem timet. ibimus omnes,
 ibimus: immensis urnam quatit Aeacus umbris.
 ast hic, quem gemimus, felix hominesque deosque
 et dubios casus et caecae lubrica vitae 221
 effugit, immunis fati. non ille rogavit,
 non timuit meruisse¹ mori: nos anxia plebes,
 nos miseri, quibus unde dies suprema, quis aevi
 exitus, incertum, quibus instet fulmen ab astris, 225
 quae nubes fatale sonet. nil flecteris istis?
 sed flectere libens ades huc emissus ab atro
 limine, cui soli cuncta impetrare facultas,
 Glaucia²—insontes animas nec portitor arcet
 nec durae comes ille ferae—: tu pectora mulce, 230

¹ meruisse *M*: reuisse *Heinsius*.

² Glaucia *M*: Glaucia si *Macnaghten*, Glaucia nam *5*.

^a Slater suggests that "comes" = Cerberus, and "ferae" = Hydra, as in Virg. *Aen.* vi. 287; Vollmer makes Cerberus the beast, and the comrade a figure found on a wall-painting by the side of Cerberus, and described Lucan, *Phars.* vi. 702; cf. Sil. It. *Pun.* xiii. 587.

shoulders, and a long while carried him rejoicing upon his arm, and offered him such gifts as kindly Elysium bears, sterile boughs and songless birds and pale flowers with bruised blossoms. Nor does he forbid him to remember thee, but fondly blends heart with heart, and takes part in turn in the affection of the lad.

It is the end : he is lost to thee. Wilt thou not now assuage thy pain and lift thy grief-sunken head ? All that thou seest is dead or doomed to die ; nights and days perish, and the stars, nor does the frame of the solid earth avail her. Our race is of mortal kind, and who should bewail the passing of folk whose end is sure ? War claims some, the ocean others ; some are victims of love, of madness, or fell desire ; these winter's freezing breath awaits, those the fierce heat of deadly Sirius, others pale Autumn with rain-bringing jaws. All that hath had beginning fears its end. Doomed are we all, ay, doomed : for shades innumerable doth Aeacus shake his urn. But he whom we mourn is happy : gods and men hath he escaped, and doubtful chance and the dangers of our dark life : he is beyond the will of Fate. He prayed not, nor feared nor deserved to die ; but we, poor anxious creatures, miserable folk, we know not whence our death shall come, what our life's end shall be, from what quarter the thunderbolt threatens, what cloud utters the sound of doom. Do these thoughts not move thee ? But thou shalt be moved, and willingly. Come hither, Glaucias, who alone canst obtain all thou dost ask ; leave that dark threshold, for neither the ferryman nor the comrade of the cruel beast ^a bars the way to innocent souls :

STATIUS

tu prohibe manare genas noctesque beatas
dulcibus alloquus et vivis vultibus imple,
et peruisse nega, desolatamque sororem,
qui potes, et miseros perge insinuare parentes.

II

VILLA SURRENTINA POLLII FELICIS

Est inter notos Sirenum nomine muros
saxaque Tyrrhenae templis onerata Minervae
celsa Dicarchei speculatrix villa profundi,
qua Bromio dilectus ager, collesque per altos
urit et prelis non invidet uva Falernis. 5
huc me post patrii laetum quinquennia lustris,
cum stadio iam pigra quies canusque sederet
pulvis ad Ambracias conversa gymnade frondes,
trans gentile fretum placidi facundia Polli
detulit et nitidae iuvenilis gratia Pollae, 10

^a The name of Surrentum was locally derived from that of the Sirens, probably through the fact that Parthenope, the old name of Naples, was also the name of one of the Sirens themselves; the islands to the south of the promontory are called *Σειρηνοῦσαι* as early as Eliasthenes. The southernmost headland bore the name and temple of Minerva; Tyrrhene, perhaps from the "mare Tyrrhenum," perhaps from a tradition of Etruscan power (cf. Steph. Byz. *Συρέντιον πόλις Τυρρηνίας*), Minerva herself being originally Etruscan. "The Dicarchean deep" is the bay of Naples, from Dicarchus or Dicarcheus, founder of Puteoli.

^b The four-yearly festival of the Augustalia at Naples, instituted in A.D. 2; it consisted of musical and gymnastic contests. The Actian ("Ambracian" l. 8) games came a little later, beginning on September 2.

soothe thou his heart and forbid his tears to flow ;
make his nights glad with thy sweet converse and
thy living countenance. Tell him thou art not dead,
and hasten to commend to him—for thou canst—thy
unhappy parents and thy sister left forlorn.

II. THE VILLA OF POLLIVS FELIX AT SURRENTUM

The general arrangement of the poem follows the lines of i. 3 ; there is a description of the villa and its surroundings, followed by praise of its master, Pollivs, and, in this case, of his wife Polla as well. Pollivs Felix was a wealthy patron of Stativs. The position of the villa can be determined with some degree of certainty as having been on the coast between the Capo di Sorrento and the Capo di Massa, on the heights of the Punta della Calcarella ; just to the south the Marina di Puolo still preserves the name of Pollivs, and must be the " unum litus " of ll. 15, 16 ; the temples of Neptune and Hercules lay somewhere below the villa. Considerable remains of Roman masonry still exist.

The building of the Temple of Hercules is described in Silv. iii. 1.

Between the walls that are known by the Sirens' name and the cliff that is burdened by the shrine of Etruscan Minerva a lofty villa stands and gazes out upon the Dicarchean deep ;^a there the ground is beloved of Bromivs, and the grapes ripen on the high hills nor envy the Falernian wine-pressess. Hither was I glad to come after the four-yearly festival^b of my home,—when at last deep quiet had fallen and the dust lay white upon the course, and the athletes had turned them to Ambracian garlands,—drawn by the eloquence of gentle Pollivs and bright Polla's girlish charm to cross my native strait :

STATIUS

flexere iam cupidum gressus, qua limite noto
Appia longarum teritur regina viarum.

Sed iuvare morae. placido lunata recessu
hinc atque hinc curvas perrumpunt aequora rupes.
dat natura locum montique intervenit unum¹ 15
litus et in terras scopulis pendentibus exit
gratia prima loci, gemina testudine fumant
balnea, et e terris occurrit dulcis amaro
nympha mari. levis hic Phorci chorus udaeque crines
Cymodoce viridisque cupit Galatea lavari 20
ante domum tumidae moderator caeruleus undae
excubat, innocui custos laris; huius amico
spumant templa salo. felicia rura tuetur
Alcides; gaudet gemino sub numine portus:
hic servat terras, hic saevis fluctibus obstat. 25
mira quies pelagi: ponunt hic lassa furorem
aequora, et insani spirant clementius auri,
hic praeceps minus audent hiems, nulloque tumultu
stagna modesta iacent dominique imitantia mores
Inde per obliquas erepit porticus arces, 30
urbis opus, longoque domat saxa aspera dorso.
qua prius obscuro permixti pulvere soles
et feritas inamoena viae, nunc ire voluptas:
qualis, si subeas Ephyres Baccheidos altum
culmen, ab Inoo fert semita tecta Lechaeo.² 35

¹ unum *M* (*Krohn*, cf. *Suet.* Tib. 40): udum, imum, uncum *edd.*

² Lechaeo *Dom* · lyceo *M*: Lyaeo *5*.

^a Old name of Corinth; the epithet appears to allude to the Bacchiadae, ancient rulers of Corinth.

^b Lechaenum was the port of Corinth on the Corinthian gulf, associated with the worship of Ino and Palaemon

though already fain to direct my steps where runs the worn and well-known track of Appia, queen of the long roads.

Yet the time I spent delighted me. The crescent waters of a tranquil bay break through the curving line of cliff on either hand. The spot is of Nature's giving : one single beach lies between sea and hill, ending towards the land in overhanging rocks. The first charm of the place is a smoking bath-house with two cupolas, and a stream of fresh water from the land meeting the salt brine. Here would the nimble choir of Phorcus wish to bathe, and Cymodoce with dripping tresses and sea-green Galatea. Before the building the dark-blue ruler of the swelling waves keeps watch, and guards that innocent home ; his shrine is it that is wet with friendly spray. Alcides protects the happy fields ; in the two deities does the haven rejoice : one guards the land, the other resists the angry billows. A wondrous peace is on the sea : here the weary waves rage no more, and the furious South wind blows more mildly ; here the swift hurricane is less daring, and the pools lie tranquil and undisturbed, calm as the spirit of their lord.

Thence a colonnade climbs slantwise up the cliff, vast as a city, and its long line of roof gains mastery over the rugged rocks. Where the sun once shone through clouds of dust, and the way was wild and unlovely, now it is a pleasure to go. Even such, should you scale the lofty height of Bacchic Ephyre,^a is the covered way that leads from Lechaëum, of Ino's fame.^b

(Melicertes), whence came the Isthmian games ; *cf. Theb.* ii. 381.

STATIUS

Non, mihi si cunctos Helicon indulgeat amnes
 et superet Pimplea sitim largeque volantis
 ungula sedet equi reseretque arcana pudicos
 Phemonoe fontes vel quos meus auspice Phoebō
 altius immersa turbavit Pollius urna, 40
 innumeras valeam species cultusque locorum
 Pieris aequare modis. vix ordine longo
 suffecere oculi, vix, dum per singula ducor,
 suffecere gradus. quae rerum turba ! locine 44
 ingenium an domini mirer prius ? haec domus ortus
 aspicit et Phoebi tenerum iubar ; illa cadentem
 detinet exactamque negat dimittere lucem,
 cum iam fessa dies et in aequora montis opaci
 umbra cadit vitreoque natant praetoria ponto.
 haec pelagi clamore fremunt, haec tecta sonoros 50
 ignorant fluctus terraeque silentia malunt.
 his favit natura locis, hic victa colenti
 cessit et ignotos docilis mansuevit in usus.
 mons erat hic, ubi plana vides ; et lustra fuerunt,
 quae nunc tecta subis ; ubi nunc nemora ardua cernis,
 hic nec terra fuit : domuit possessor, et illum 56
 formantem rupes expugnantemque secuta
 gaudet humus. nunc cerne iugum discentia saxa
 intrantesque domos iussumque recedere montem.
 iam Methymnaei vatis manus et chelys una 60
 Thebais et Getici cedat tibi gloria plectri :
 et tu saxa moves, et te nemora alta sequuntur.

^a *i.e.*, the fountain Hippocrene struck forth by the hoof of Pegasus, *cf.* ii. 7. 4.

^b Daughter of Apollo, and, according to Strabo, the first Pythian priestess. Her "pure" springs are those of Castalia ("castus"), and "arcana" may be meant as an etymologizing of "Phemonoe," "she who speaks forth hidden thoughts."

^c Arion, Amphion, Orpheus.

Not if Helicon were to grant me all her streams, or Pimplea quench my thirst, or the hoof of the flying steed ^a abundantly assuage it : not if mystic Phemonoë ^b were to unlock her pure springs or those wherein my Pollius, under the auspices of Phoebus, hath plunged his deep-immersed urn—not even so could I equal in Pierian strains the countless charms and beauties of the place. Scarcely could my eyes sustain the long array, scarce could my feet avail, while I was led from scene to scene. What a multitude of things ! Shall I first admire the genius of the place or of its master ? This part of the house looks eastward to Phoebus' morning rays ; that part detains him as he sets, nor allows the exhausted light to disappear, when the day is wearied out and the shadow of the dark mountain falls on the waters, and the proud mansion floats upon the glassy flood. Here the sound of the sea is in the chambers, here they know not the roaring of the waves, but prefer the silence of the land. Here are spots that Nature has favoured, here she has been outdone and given way to the settler and learnt gentleness in ways unknown before. Here, where you now see level ground, was a hill ; the halls you enter were wild country ; where now tall groves appear, there was once not even soil : its owner has tamed the place, and as he shaped and conquered the rocks the earth gladly gave way before him. See how the cliff learns to bear the yoke, how the dwellings force their entry and the mountain is bidden withdraw. Now let the skill of Methymne's bard and that sole Theban lyre and the glory of the Getic quill ^c give way before thee : thou too dost move the rocks, thee too the high woods follow.

STATIUS

Quid referam veteres ceraeque aerisque figuras,
 si quid Apellei gaudent animasse colores,
 si quid adhuc vacua, tamen admirabile, Pisa 65
 Phidiacae rasere manus, quod ab arte Myronis
 aut Polycliteo iussum est quod vivere caelo,
 aeraque ab Isthmiacis auro potiora favillis,
 ora ducum ac vatum sapientumque ora priorum,
 quos tibi cura sequi, quos toto pectore sentis, 70
 expers curarum atque animum virtute queta
 compositus semperque tuus? quid mille revolvam
 culmina visendique vices? sua cuique voluptas
 atque omni proprium thalamo mare, transque
 iacentem

Nerea diversis servit sua terra fenestris : 75
 haec videt Inarimen, illinc Prochyta aspera paret ;
 armiger hac magni patet Hectoris, inde malignum
 aera respirat pelago circumflua Nesis ;
 inde vagis omen felix Euploea carinis
 quaeque ferit curvos exserta Megala fluctus, 80
 angitur et domino contra recubante proculque
 Surrentina tuus spectat praetoria Limon.
 una tamen cunctis, procul emnet una diaetis,
 quae tibi Parthenopen directo limite ponti
 ingerit : hic Graeis penitus delecta metallis 85
 saxa ; quod Eoae respergit vena Syenes,
 Synnade quod maesta Phrygiae fodere secures
 per Cybeles lugentis agros, ubi marmore picto
 candida purpureo distinguitur area gyro ;
 hic et Amyclaei caesum de monte Lycurgi 90

^a *i.e.*, before the statue of Olympian Zeus was there.

^b Statues supposed to have been cast from the masses of molten bronze found in Corinth after its burning: see Petronius, 50 ; Pliny, *N.H.* xxxiv. 5.

^c The cape called after Misenus.

^d Because the name (*Εὐπλοία*) means "happy voyaging."

Why should I tell of ancient forms in wax or bronze, or of aught that the colours of Apelles rejoiced to animate, or the hand of Phidias carved, though Pisa still was empty,^a yet wondrously withal, or what was bidden live by Myron's art or Polyclethus' chisel, the bronzes, from the funeral fire of Corinth,^b more precious than gold, countenances of chieftains and prophets and sages of old time, whom it is thy care to follow, whose influence thou dost feel in all thy being, untroubled and steadfast in thy tranquil virtue, and ever lord of thy own heart? Why should I recount the numberless summits and the changing views? Each chamber has its own delight, its own particular sea, and across the expanse of Nereus each window commands a different landscape: this one beholds Inarime, from that rugged Prochyta is seen; here the squire of mighty Hector^c is outspread, there sea-girt Nesis breathes tainted air; yonder is Euploea, good omen for wandering barks,^d and Megala flung out to repel the curving billows; and thy own Limon grieves that his lord reclines there over against him, and gazes at thy Surrentine mansion from afar. Yet one room there is, one higher than all the rest, which over a straight track of sea brings Parthenope to thy sight: here are marbles chosen from the heart of Grecian quarries;^e the stone of Eastern Syene, splashed with veining, and that which Phrygian axes hew in mournful Synnas o'er the fields of wailing Cybele,^f whereon the white expanse is bordered by a rim of purple; here too are green blocks quarried from the hill of Lycurgus at

^a See note on i. 2. 148.

^f The Phrygian worship of Cybele, who wails for Attis, her votary (cf. i. 5. 38), is here referred to.

STATIUS

quod viret et molles imitatur rupibus herbas,
 hic Nomadum lucent flaventia saxa Thasosque
 et Chios et gaudens fluctus spectare Carystos :
 omnia Chalcidicas turres obversa salutant.
 macte animo, quod Graia probas, quod Graia¹
 frequentas 95
 arva ; nec invideant quae te genuere Dicarchi
 moenia ! nos docto melius potiemur alumno.
 Quid nunc ruris opes pontoque novalia dicam
 iniecta et madidas Baccheo nectare rupes ?
 saepe per autumnum iam pubescente Lyaeo 100
 conscendit scopulos noctisque occulta sub umbra
 palmitum maturo rorantia lumina tersit
 Nereis et dulces rapuit de collibus uvas.
 saepe et vicino sparsa est vindemia fluctu,
 et Satyri cecidere vadis, nudamque per undas 105
 Dorida montani cupierunt prendere Panes.
 Sis felix, tellus, dominis ambobus in annos
 Mygdonii Pyliique senis nec nobile mutes
 servitium, nec te cultu Tirynthia vincat
 aula Dicarcheique sinus, nec saepius isti 110
 blanda Therapnaei placent² vineta Galaesi.
 hic ubi Pierias exercet Pollius artes,
 seu volvit monitus, quos dat Gargettius auctor,

¹ Graia . Graia *Gevart* : grata . grata *M*.

² isti . . placent *M* : istis . . placeant *S*.

^a Either because of the similarity of colour, or, according to Phillimore (quoted by Slater), because the view recalls that from the Carystian quarries.

^b Cumae, a colony of Chalcis in Euboea, was very near to Naples ; "Chalcidian" can therefore="Neapolitan."
 "Dicarchi moenia" = Puteoli.

^c Statius congratulates Pollius on his love of Greek marbles, Greek learning (*cf* l. 113), and Greek dwelling-
 102

Amyclae, where the stone counterfeits the grass ; here gleam the tawny rocks from Numidia, Thasian marble too and Chian, and Carystian stone that joys to behold the waves :^a all turn to salute the Chalcidian towers.^b A blessing on thy heart, that thou approvest what is Greek and hauntest Grecian land ; nor let the city of Dicarchus that gave thee birth feel envy ! We shall prove better owners of our poet-ward.^c

Why should I rehearse the wealth of the countryside, the fallows flung out into the sea and the cliffs steeped in Bacchus' nectar ? Often in autumn-time when the grapes are ripening a Nereid climbs the rocks, and under cover of the shades of night brushes the sea-water from her eyes with a leafy vine-spray, and snatches sweet clusters from the hills. Often is the vintage sprinkled by the neighbouring foam ; Satyrs plunge into the water, and Pan-gods from the mountain are fain to grasp the sea-nymph as she flies naked through the waves.

Bless with prosperity, O land, thy lord and lady both, unto the years of a Nestor or a Tithonus, nor ever change thy noble servitude ! Let not the Tirynthian hall and Dicarchus' bay outdo thee as a home,^d nor thy lords too often gladden the wistful vineyards of Laconian Galaesus. Here where Pollus plies his Pierian craft, whether he ponders the

places (Naples and its surroundings). "We," *i.e.* we of Naples, as opposed to Puteoli.

^a Pollus seems to have possessed a house at Bauli near Puteoli (*cf.* note on l. 94), and also near Tarentum. The latter is represented as "coaxing" ("blanda") him to come and spend his time there, and jealous (hence "placent") if he does not. Therapnaean, because Therapnae is in Laconia, and Tarentum was a Spartan colony.

STATIUS

seu nostram quatit ille chelyn seu dissona nectit
 carmina sive minax ultorem stringit iambon : 115
 hinc levis e scopulis meliora ad carmina Siren
 advolat, hinc motis audit Tritonia cristis.
 tunc rapidi ponunt flatus, maria ipsa vetantur
 obstrepere, emergunt pelago doctamque trahuntur
 ad chelyn et blandi scopulis delphines aderrant. 120

Vive, Midæ gazis et Lydo ditior auro,
 Troica et Euphratae supra diademata felix,
 quem non ambigui fasces, non mobile vulgus,
 non leges, non castra terent, qui pectore magno
 spemque metumque domas voto¹ sublimior omni, 125
 exemptus fatis indignantemque refellens
 Fortunam ; dubio quem non in turbine rerum
 deprendet suprema dies, sed abire paratum
 ac plenum vita. nos, vilis turba, caducis
 deservire bonis semperque optare parati, 130
 spargimur in casus : celsa tu mentis ab arce
 despicias errantes humanaque gaudia rides.
 tempus erat, cum te geminae suffragia terrae
 diriperent celsusque duas veherere per urbes,
 inde Dicarcheis multum venerande colonis, 135
 hinc adscite meis, pariterque his largus et illis
 ac iuvenile calens plectrique errore superbus.
 at nunc discussa rerum caligine verum
 aspicias—illo alii rursus iactantur in alto—,
 et tua securos portus placidamque quietem 140
 intravit non quassa ratis. sic perge nec umquam

¹ voto *Waller* : tuto *M* : vitio, motu, titulo *edd.*

^a Pollus, like Vopiscus, was an Epicurean ; this, however, may not mean more than that he enjoyed a cultured leisure, and avoided public life.

^b *i.e.*, writes epic or elegiac verse.

^c Of Croesus.

^d Of the Persian kings.

Gargettian teacher's counsels,^a or strikes my own lyre, or reunites unequal strains,^b or draws the threatening sword of avenging satire : the nimble Siren speeds from these rocks to sweeter lays than hers, and here Tritonia lifts her head and listens. Then the wild winds abate, the seas themselves are forbidden to rage ; the dolphins emerge from the deep, and drawn to the music of his harp float gently by the cliffs.

Long mayst thou live, enriched beyond Midas' wealth and Lydian^c gold, blest above the diadems of Euphrates^d and of Troy ; whom neither fickle power nor the shifting mob, nor laws nor camps can vex, whose great heart, raised sublime over all desire, doth quell hope and fear, who art beyond the will of Fate and dost baffle the enmity of Fortune ; thee the last day shall find, not bewildered in the maze of things, but sated with life and ready to depart. But we, a worthless folk, slaves at the beck of transient blessings and wishes ever new, are tossed from chance to chance : thou from thy mind's high citadel dost look down upon our wanderings and laughest at human joys. There was a time when the loyalty of two lands tore thee in twain, and thou wert borne in triumph through two cities, there worshipped, as is meet, by Dicarchus' folk, here made their own by mine, and bountiful alike to these and those, in the full fire of youth and proud of thy wandering Muse.^e But now are the mists dispersed, and thou dost behold the truth—others in their turn are tossed upon that sea—and thy unshaken bark has entered a peaceful haven and a quiet resting-place. Con-

^e The phrase refers either to the varied poetical achievements of Pollius, or his travelling to different cities for the purpose of recitation, perhaps at various festivals.

STATIUS

emeritam in nostras puppem dimitte procellas. 142
 tuque, nūus inter longe *praedocta Latinas* 147
*parque viro mentem, cui non*¹ praecordia curae,
 non frontem vertere² minae, sed candida semper
 gaudia et in vultu curarum ignara voluptas ;
 non tibi sepositas infelix strangulat area 150
 divitias avidique animum dispendia torquent
 fenoris : expositi census et docta fruendi
 temperies. non ulla deo meliore cohaerent
 pectora, non alias docuit³ Concordia mentes. 154
 discite securi, quorum de pectore mixtae 143
 in longum coiere faces sanctusque pudicae
 servat amicitiae leges amor. ite per annos
 saeculaque et priscae titulos praecedite famae. 146

III. ARBOR ATEDII MELIORIS

Stat, quae perspicuas nitidi Melioris opacet
 arbor aquas complexa lacus, quae robore ab imo
 incurvata vadis redit inde cacumine recto
 ardua, ceu mediis iterum nascatur ab undis
 atque habitet vitreum tacitis radicibus amnem. 5

¹ *praedocta* . . . *cui non* *W. R. Hardie*, C.R. xviii. p. 158.

² *vertere Pol. (from P)* : *vescere M.*

³ *docuit M* : *decurt S.*

tinue thus, nor ever loose thy vessel, her voyage over, to face our storms. And thou, who in wisdom dost surpass the daughters of Latium and in mind art equal to thy lord, whose spirit no cares, whose brow no menace has dismayed, but who art ever bright and happy, while joy untroubled reigns in thy countenance :—for thee no churlish money-chest keeps tight grip of hoarded wealth, no waste of greedy usury tortures thy heart, but open to all are thy riches, and thou dost enjoy them in wise restraint. No union of souls is more blest, such are the minds that Concord has taught. Learn of her in untroubled peace, ye from whose hearts the blending fires are met in a long union, and whose hallowed love keeps fast the laws of chaste affection. Go onward through the years, and outdo the centuries of old and the title-roll of ancient fame.

III. THE TREE OF ATEDIUS MELIOR

Atedius Melior, another of Statius's rich patrons, had a plane-tree in his grounds that grew beside a pool, with a trunk that bent over and down towards the water, and then straightening itself grew upwards again ; Statius's poem is a kind of Alexandrian alibi, giving the cause of the phenomenon, and reminds one also of an Ovidian Metamorphosis. It was sent to Melior as a birthday gift.

Enfolding with its overshadowing boughs the clear waters of my elegant Melior's lake there stands a tree, whose trunk, curving from its base, bends down toward the mere, and then shoots up aloft straight to its summit, as though it grew a second time from the midst of the waves, and dwelt with hidden roots in the glassy stream. Why ask so slight a tale of

STATIUS

quid Phoebum tam parva rogem? vos dicite causas,
Naiades, et faciles, satis est, date carmina Fauni.

Nympharum tenerae fugiebant Pana catervae;
ille quidem it, cunctas tamquam velit, et tamen¹ unam
in Pholoen. silvis haec² fluminibusque sequentis 10
nunc hirtos gressus, nunc improba cornua vitat.
iamque et belligerum Iani nemus atraque Caci
rura Quirinalesque fuga suspensa per agros
Caelica tesca subit; ibi demum victa labore,
fessa metu, qua nunc placidi Melioris aperti 15
stant sine fraude lares, flavos collegit amictus
artius et niveae³ posuit se margine ripae.
insequitur velox pecorum deus et sua credit
conubia; ardenti iamiam suspiria librat
pectore, iam praedae levis imminet. ecce citatos 20
advertit Diana gradus, dum per iuga septem
errat Aventinaeque legit vestigia cervae.
paenituit vidisse deam, conversaque fidas
ad comites: "numquamne avidis arcebo rapinis
hoc petulans foedumque pecus, semperque pudici 25
decrescet mihi turba chor?" sic deinde locuta
depromit pharetra telum breve, quod neque flexis
cornibus aut solito torquet stridore, sed una
emisit contenta manu laevamque soporae⁴
Naidos aversa fertur tetigisse sagitta. 30
illa diem pariter surgens hostemque protervum
vidit et in fontem, niveos ne panderet artus,

¹ et tamen *M*: it tamen *Σ*.

² haec *m Pol.* (from *P*): et *M*: sed *Krohn*.

³ niveae *M*: viridi *Markland*: curvae, nitidae *edd.*: vivae *Slater*. niveae is certainly doubtful, though he may be thinking of flowers.

⁴ soporae *Krohn*: soporem *M*.

^a The precinct of Janus was at the foot of the Capitol, the
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Phoebus ? Do you, O Naiads, relate the cause, and you, compliant Fauns—ye will suffice—inspire my song.

Frightened troops of Nymphs were fleeing from Pan ; on he came, as though all were his quarry, yet on Pholoe alone was he bent. By copse and stream she fled, shunning now the hairy following limbs, now the wanton horns. Through Janus' grove,^a scene of battles, and Cacus' deadly haunts ; through the fields of Quirinus she came running a-tiptoe and gained the Caehan wilds ; there at last wearied out and fordone with fear—where to-day stands the quiet home of hospitable Melior—she gathered her saffron robe closer about her, and sank down on the edge of the snow-white bank. Swiftly follows the shepherd-god, and deems the maid his bride ; already he allays the panting of his fevered breast, already he hovers lightly o'er his prey. Lo ! with speedy steps Diana approaches, as she ranges the seven hills and tracks the flight of a deer on Aventine ; the goddess was vexed to see it, and turning to her trusty comrades : “ Shall I never keep this unseemly, wanton brood from lustful rapine ? Must my chaste band of followers ever grow fewer ? ” So speaking she drew a short shaft from her quiver, but sped it not from the bent bow or with the wonted twang, but was content to fling it with one hand, and touched—so 'tis said—the left hand of the drowsy Naiad with the arrow-feathers. She awaking beheld at once the day and her wanton foe, and lest she should bare her snow-white limbs plunged just as she was with all her raiment into the lake, and at the den of Cacus on the Aventine, on which hill was a shrine of Diana.

STATIUS

sic tota cum veste ruit, stagnisque sub altis
 Pana sequi credens ima latus implicat alga.
 quid faceret subito deceptus praedo? nec altis 35
 credere corpus aquis hirtae sibi conscius audet
 pellis et a tenero nandi rudis: omnia questus,
 immitem Bromium,¹ stagna invida et invida tela,
 primaevam visu platanum, cui longa propago
 innumeraeque manus et iturus in aethera vertex, 40
 deposuit iuxta vivamque adgressit harenam
 optatisque aspergit aquis et talia mandat:
 "vive diu nostri pignus memorabile voti,
 arbor, et haec durae latebrosa cubilia nymphae
 tu saltem declinis ama, preme frondibus undam. 45
 illa quidem meruit, sed ne, precor, igne superno
 aestuet aut dura feriat grandine; tantum
 spargere tu laticem et foliis turbare memento.
 tunc ego teque diu recolam dominamque benignae
 sedis et inlaesa tutabor utramque senecta, 50
 ut Iovis, ut Phoebi frondes, ut discolor umbra
 populus et nostrae stupeant tua germina pinus."
 sic ait. illa dei veteres animata calores
 uberibus stagnis obliquo pendula trunco
 incubat atque umbris scrutatur amantibus undas. 55
 sperat et amplexus, sed aquarum spiritus arcet
 nec patitur tactus. tandem eluctata sub auras
 librat fundum rursusque enode cacumen
 ingeniosa levat, veluti descendat in imos
 stirpe lacus alia. iam nec Phoebeia Nais 60
 odit et exclusos invitat gurgite ramos

Haec tibi parva quidem genitili luce paramus

¹ Bromium *M*: Brimo *Scaliger*: Bormum *Ellis*.

^a Bacchus being the deity to whom Pan, together with Satyrs and Sileni, owed allegiance and therefore trusted for help.
^b Oak and bay.

bottom of the mere, believing Pan was following, she wrapped the weeds about her. What could the robber do, so suddenly baffled? Conscious of his shaggy hide, and from childhood untaught to swim, he dares not trust himself to the deep waters. Lavish complaint made he of heartless Bromius, of the jealous lake and jealous shaft; ^a then spying a young plane tree with long stem and countless branches and summit aspiring to heaven he set it by him and heaped fresh sand about it and sprinkled it with the longed-for waters, and thus commanded it: "Live long, O tree, as the memorable token of my vow, and do thou at least stoop down and cherish the secret abode of this hard-hearted nymph, and cover her waters with thy leaves. Let her not, I pray, though she has deserved it, be scorched by the sun's heat or lashed by cruel hail; only mind thou to bestrew the pool with thickly scattered leaves. Then will I long remember thee and the mistress of this kindly place, and guard both to a secure old age, so that the trees of Jove and Phoebus, and the twy-coloured poplar shade ^b and my own pines may marvel at thy boughs." So he spake; and the tree, quickened with the old passion of the god, hangs and broods over the full mere with drooping stem, and searches the waves with loving shadows, and hopes for their embrace; but the breath of the waters put it from them, and suffered not its touch. At length it struggles upward, and poised upon its base cunningly lifts its head without any knot, as though it sank with another root into the bottom of the lake. Now not even the Naiad, Phoebe's votary, hates it, but her stream invites the boughs she banished.

Such is the gift I bring thee on thy birthday,

STATIUS

dona, sed ingenti forsán victura sub aevo.
tu, cuius placido posuere in pectore sedem
blandus honos hilarisque tamen cum pondere virtus,
cui nec pigra quies nec iniqua potentia nec spes 66
improba, sed medius per honesta et dulcia limes,
incorrupte fidem nullosque experte tumultus
et secrete, palam quom¹ digeris ordine vitam,
idem auri facilis contemptor et optimus idem 70
comere divitias opibusque immittere lucem :
hac longum florens animi morumque iuventa
Iliacos aequare senes et vincere persta,
quos pater Elysium, genetrix quos detulit annos :
hoc illi duras exoravere sorores, 75
hoc, quae te sub teste situm fugitura tacentem
ardua magnanimi revirescet gloria Blaesi.

IV. PSITTACUS EIUSDEM

Psittace, dux volucrum, domini facunda voluptas,
humanae sollers imitator, psittace, linguae,
quis tua tam subito praecluserit murmura fato ?
hesternas, miserande, dapes moriturus inisti
nobiscum, et gratae carpentem munera mensae 5
errantemque toris mediae plus tempore noctis
vidimus. adfatus etiam meditataque verba

¹ quom *Vollmer* : quod *M* : quo *Baehrens* : qui *Dom.*

^a The praise of his patron seems to show that Melior, like Vopiscus and Pollus, cultivated an elegant leisure.

small indeed, but destined perchance to live throughout long ages. Thou in whose tranquil breast dwells courteous dignity and gay, yet thoughtful virtue, refusest slothful ease and unjust power and overweening ambition, but takest the mid-path between duty and pleasure, thou whose loyalty is unstained, whose heart has known no storms, whose life is lived apart, yet ordered and planned for all to see, thou who readily spurnest gold, yet dost excel in setting thy wealth in array and bringing thy riches to the light : long mayst thou flourish and live on in youthfulness of mind and heart to rival Priam and Tithonus, and to surpass the years that thy mother and thy sire took with them to Elysium ; this guerdon have they won for thee from the stern Sisters, they and the lofty fame of great-hearted Blaesus, which, preserved from silent oblivion by thy witness, shall flourish once again.^a

IV. MELIOR'S PARROT

This elegy on Melior's parrot recalls of course Ovid's similar poem (Am. 11. 6), while it is also a kind of parody of Statius's own Epicedia. For talking birds in ancient times, Pliny, Nat. Hist. x. 117, is the locus classicus.

Parrot, prince of birds, glib-tongued favourite of thy master, parrot that cleverly dost mimic human speech, who has cut short thy chatter by so sudden a stroke ? Yesterday, hapless one, thou didst join our feast, though doomed to die, and we saw thee plucking the dainties of the table and moving from couch to couch till after midnight. Greetings also and well-conned words hadst thou repeated. But

STATIUS

reddideras. at nunc aeterna silentia Lethes
ille canorus habes. cedat Phaethontia vulgi
fabula : non soli celebrant sua funera cygni. 10

At tibi quanta domus rutila testudine fulgens,
conexusque ebori virgarum argenteus ordo,
argutumque tuo stridentia limina cornu,
et, querulae iam sponte, fores ! vacat ille beatus
carcer et augusti¹ nusquam convicia tecti ! 15

Huc doctae stipentur aves, quis nobile fandi
ius Natura dedit : plangat Phoebeius ales
auditasque memor penitus dimittere voces
sturnus et Aonio versae certamine picae,
quique refert iungens iterata vocabula perdix, 20
et quae Bistonio queritur soror orba cubili :
ferre simul gemitus cognataque ducite flammis
funera et hoc cunctae miserandum addiscite carmen :

“ Occidit aeriae celeberrima gloria gentis
psittacus, ille plagae viridis regnator Eoae ; 25
quem non gemmata volucris Iunonis
vinceret aspectu, gelidi non Phasid'
nec quas umentis Numidae rapuere,
ille saluator regum nomenque locutus
Caesareum et queruli quondam vice funis
nunc conviva levis monstrataque reddere
tam facilis ! quo tu, Melior dilecte, reclusus
numquam solus eras. at non inglorius umbris
mittitur : Assyrio cineres adolentur amomo

¹ augusti *M* : augusti *S*.

^a Because the death-song of swans is referred to in it.

^b The raven.

^c The maidens who challenged the Muses and were turned into magpies.

^d Philomela, sister-in-law of Tereus, king of Thrace, turned into a nightingale ; according to Pliny (*loc. cit.*) these birds could be taught both Latin and Greek.

now that minstrelsy hath Lethe's eternal silence for its portion. Let the well-known tale of Phaethon give place: 'tis not only swans that sing their coming death.^a

But how spacious was thy house, how bright its gleaming dome! and the row of silver bars, joined with ivory, and the gate that echoed shrill at the touch of thy beak, and the doors that to-day speak their own complaint! Empty is that happy cage, and silent the chattering of that lordly abode.

Flock hither all ye scholar fowl, to whom Nature has given the noble privilege of speech; let the bird of Phoebus ^b beat his breast, and the starling, that repeats by heart the sayings it has heard, and magpies transformed in the Aonian contest,^c and the partridge, that joins and reiterates the words it echoes, and the sister that laments forlorn in her Bistonian bower:^d mourn all together and bear your dead kinsman to the flames, and learn all of you this piteous dirge:

"The parrot, glory and renown of all the airy tribe, green monarch of the East, is dead: whom neither the bird of Juno with jewelled tail, nor the fowl of icy Phasis,^e nor those whereon the Numidians prey beneath the moist southern sky, could surpass in beauty. Once he saluted kings and spoke the name of Caesar, was now a sympathetic friend, now a gay companion of the board, so skilful was he to render the words he had been taught! Never wert thou solitary, beloved Melior, when he was set free. But not ingloriously is he sent to the shades: his ashes are rich with Assyrian balm, and the frail

^e See note on i. 6. 77.

STATIUS

et tenues Arabum respirant gramine plumae 35
Sicaniisque crocis ; semio nec fessus inerti
scandet odoratos Phoenix felcior ignes."

V. LEO MANSUETUS

Quid tibi nunc strata¹ mansuescere profuit ira ?
quid scelus humanasque animo dediscere caedes
imperiumque pati et domino parere minori ?
quid ? quod abire domo rursusque in claustra reverti
suetus et a capta iam sponte recedere praeda 5
insertasque manus laxo dimittere morsu ?
occidis, altorum vastator docte ferarum,
non grege Massylo curvaque indagine clausus,
non formidato supra venabula saltu
incitus aut caeco foveae deceptus hiatu, 10
sed victus fugiente fera. stat cardine aperto
infelix cavea et clausas circum undique portas
hoc licuisse nefas placidi tumuere² leones.
tum cunctis cecidere rubae, puduitque relatum
aspicere, et totas duxere in lumina frontes. 15
at non te primo fusum novus obruit ictu
ille pudor : mansere animi, virtusque cadenti
a media iam morte redit, nec protinus omnes
terga dedere minae. sicut sibi conscius alti
vulneris adversum moriens it miles in hostem 20

¹ nunc strata *Postgate*: monstrata *M*: constrata *5*:
deposita *Clark, who considers monstrata due to iv. 31 above.*

² timuere *Baehrens* : timuere *M.*

^a The Massylians were an African tribe, and lions were conventionally associated with Africa.

^b The allusion is not clear to us, though of course it would be to a witness of the fight.

feathers breathe incense of Arabia and Sicilian saffron ; and he will mount a fragrant pyre, a happier Phoenix, free from the weary languor of old age."

V. THE TAME LION

Tame lions are the subject of epigrams by Martial (i. 6, 14, 22, 48, etc.). For the circumstances of the writing of this piece see Preface to this book.

What now has it availed thee to quell thy rage and be tamed, to unlearn crime and human slaughter from thy heart, and endure dominion and obey a lesser lord ? To have been wont to leave thy cage and return again to imprisonment, and of thy own will yield up the captured prey, to open thy jaws and let go the inserted hand ? Thou art fallen, O skilled slayer of tall beasts, not caught within the enclosing circle of a Massylian hunting-band,^a nor flinging thyself with dreaded spring against the spears, nor deceived by the hidden yawning of a pit, but overcome by a beast that fled thee.^b The unlucky cage stands open, while behind their barriers all around the quiet lions grew wrathful that so great a wrong should have been suffered. Then all their crests fell, and shame came on them to see the corpse brought back, and they drew down all their brows upon their eyes. Yet when the first stroke o'erthrew thee the unwonted shame o'erwhelmed thee not : thy valour remained, and even in the hour of death thy brave spirit rallied as thou didst fall, nor did all thy fierceness straightway own defeat. Just as the dying warrior who knows his wound is mortal yet goes against the foe, and lifts his hand to strike, and

STATIUS

attollitque manum et ferro labente minatur :
sic piger ille gradu solitoque exutus honore
firmat hians oculos animamque hostemque requirit.

Magna tamen subiti tecum solacia leti,
victe, feres, quod te maestus populusque patresque, 25
ceu notus caderes tristi gladiator harena,
ingemuere mori ; magni quod Caesaris ora
inter tot Scythicas Libycasque, et¹ litore Rheni
et Pharia de gente feras, quas perdere vile est,
unus amissi tetigit iactura leonis. 30

VI. CONSOLATIO AD FLAVIUM URSUM DE AMISSIONE PUERI DELICATI

Saeve nimis, lacrimis quisquis discrimina ponis
lugendique modos. miserum est primaeva parenti
pignora surgentesque—nefas !—accendere natos ;
durum et deserti praerepta coniuge partem
conclamare tori, maesta et lamenta sororum 5
et fratrum gemitus : alte tamen ac² procul intrat
altius in sensus maioraque vulnera vincit
plaga minor. famulum—quia rerum nomina caeca
sic miscet Fortuna manu nec pectora novit—,
sed famulum gemis, Urse, pium, sed amore fideque

¹ et *Aldus* : in *M* : ab *Baehrens* : a *Phillimon*.

² alte tamen ac *Markland* : ad te tamen at *M* : alte et tamen at *Vollmer* : alter *Phillimon* (alterius *next line*).

threatens even while the weapon falls from his grasp ;
so he with laboured step and reft of his wonted pride
steadies his eyes as with open mouth he pants for
breath and for the foe.

Great solace, nevertheless, shall be thine, poor
victim, for thy sudden fate, that people and Senate
mourned in sorrow to see thee die, as though thou
wert some favourite gladiator fallen on the deadly
sand ; that amid so many beasts of Scythia and
Libya, from the banks of Rhine and the tribes of
Egypt, beasts so cheaply slain, the loss of one lion
alone drew a tear from mighty Caesar's eye.

VI. A POEM OF CONSOLATION TO FLAVIUS URSUS ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE SLAVE

This Epicedion follows the same lines as ii. 1, except that the opening is different. Flavius Ursus, we may gather from the Preface and this poem, was young and rich, and practised at the bar.

Too cruel thou, whoever thou art, who makest
distinctions in mourning, and settest bounds to grief !
Piteous it is for a parent to burn—ah ! fearful
thought !—an infant darling or growing son ; hard
too is it when a consort is snatched away to call the
name of the partner of the deserted couch ; sad are
a sister's tears and a brother's groans : yet deeply
also, ay deeper far does a stroke less deadly probe
the feelings, surpassing mightier blows. 'Tis a slave
—for thus doth Fortune confound with undiscerning
hand the names of things, nor sees into the heart—
a slave whom thou dost mourn, but one that was

STATIUS

has meritum lacrimas, cui maior stemmate iuncto 11
 libertas ex mente fuit. ne comprime fletus,
 ne pudeat; rumpat frenos dolor iste diesque,¹
 si tam dura placent—hominem² gemis—heu mihi!
 subdo

ipse faces—, hominem, Urse, tuum, cui dulce volenti
 servitium, cui triste nihil, qui sponte sibique 16
 imperiosus erat. quisnam haec in funera missos
 castiget luctus? gemit inter bella peremptum
 Parthus equum, fidosque canes flevere Molossi,
 et volucres habuere rogum cervusque Maronem. 20
 quid, si nec famulus? vidi ipse habitusque notavi
 te tantum cupientis erum; sed maior in ore
 spiritus et tenero manifesti in sanguine mores.
 optarent multum Graiae cuperentque Latinae
 sic peperisse nurus. non talem Cressa superbum 25
 callida sollicito revocavit Thesea filo,
 nec Paris Oebalios talis visurus amores
 rusticus invitas deiecit in aequora pinus.
 non fallo aut cantus adsueta licentia ducit:
 vidi et adhuc video, qualem nec bella canentem 30
 litore virgineo Thetis occultavit Achillen,
 nec circum saevi fugientem Iphigenia Phoebi
 Troilon Haemoniae deprendit lancea dextrae.
 qualis eras! procul en cuncti; puerisque virisque
 pulchrior et tantum domino minor! illius unus 35
 ante decor, quantum praecedunt clara minores
 luna faces quantumque alios premit Hesperos ignes.

¹ diesque *M*: decusque *Peyrared*: deisque *Dom*.

² hominem *M*: homo enim *Macnaghten*.

^a As for instance the parrot of ii. 4, or the raven mentioned by Pliny (*N.H.* x. 122) as being given a fine funeral. The stag is that of Silvia (*Aen.* xii. 475).

^b Because Oebalus was an ancient king of Sparta.

loyal, one whose faithful affection merited these tears, and whose spirit knew a freedom that no line of ancestry could give. Check not thy weeping, feel no shame; let that day of thy lament know no restraining, if the Fates are so cruel—'tis a man thou bewailest, Ursus,—alas! myself I fan thy sorrow!—a man who was thine own, ready to find service sweet, never sullen, eager to give orders to himself. Who would curb the grief that bursts forth at such a death? The Parthian laments his steed slain in the fight, the Molossians their trusty hounds, even birds have had their pyres, and the hind its Maro.^a What if he were no real slave? Myself I saw and marked his bearing, how he would have thee only for his lord; but nobler yet was the spirit in his face, and breeding showed clear in his youthful blood. Eagerly would Grecian and Latin dames desire and pray that such a son were theirs. Less comely was proud Theseus, when the cunning maid of Crete drew him back with her anxious thread, or Paris, when in haste to see his Spartan^b bride he launched, a shepherd lad, the unwilling pines upon the man. 'Tis truth I tell, nor does wonted licence sway my song: I have seen him, ay, and see him yet, out-matching Achilles when Thetis hid him singing of wars upon the maiden's strand, or Troilus, when the lance from the Haemonian hero's arm^c caught him as he fled round cruel Phoebus' walls. How fair thou wert! lo! comelier far than all, lads and men alike, and surpassed only by thy lord!^d His glory alone exceeded thine, as the bright moon exceeds the lesser fires, and as Hesper outshines the other

^c Achilles.^d So, with grosser flattery, of Earinus (iii. 4. 44).

non tibi femineum vultu decus oraque supra
 mollis honos, quales dubiae post crimina formae
 de sexu transire iubent, torvoque virilis 40
 gratia ; nec petulans acies blandique severo
 igne oculi, qualis, bellus iam casside, visu¹
 Parthenopaeus erat ; simplexque horrore decoro
 crinis, et obsessae nondum primoque micantes
 flore genae : talem Ledaeo gurgite pubem 45
 educat Eurotas, teneri sic integer aevi
 Elin adit primosque Iovi puer adprobat annos.
 nam pudor unde novae menti² tranquillaeque morum
 temperies teneroque animus maturior aevo,
 carmine quo repetisse³ queam ? saepe ille volentem
 castigabat erum studioque altisque iuvabat 51
 consiliis ; tecum tristisque hilarisque nec umquam
 ille suus vultumque tuo sumebat ab ore :
 dignus et Haemonium Pyladen praecedere fama
 Cecropiamque fidem, sed laudum terminus esto, 55
 quem fortuna sinit : non mente fidelior aegra
 speravit tardi reditus Eumaeus Ulixis.

Quis deus aut quisnam tam tristia vulnera casus
 eligit ? unde manus Fatis tam certa nocendi ?
 o quam divitiis censuque exutus opimo 60

¹ bellus iam casside visu *Krohn* : bellus i. c. v. *M* : casside missa *Pol.* : demissa casside visu *Slater*.

² novae *Skutsch* : notae *M* : menti *M2* : mentis *M* : unde notem, ingenuae *edd.*

³ repetisse *Postgate* : potasse *M* ; par esse *Saftien* : pensasse *S* etc.

^a i.e., when the boyish beauty is beginning to fade into manhood. Others take "crimina dubiae formae" as "the crime that causes ambiguous appearance" (crime, because forbidden by Domitian, cf. iii. 4. 73, iv. 3. 13).

stars. No womanly charm was in thy countenance, no effeminate grace upon thy brow, as with those whom after the reproach of fading beauty men bid lose their sex,^a but an earnest, manly beauty was thine; nor was thy gaze insolent, but thine eye was gentle yet stern with fire, like Parthenopaeus to behold, when now decked in his helm^b; simple the ruffled charm of thy locks, thy cheeks not covered yet, but bright with their first down: such are the lads that Eurotas nurtures by Leda's stream, such the boys that in the unstained freshness of boyhood go to Elis,^c and approve their budding youth to Jove. How indeed in song can I trace the growth of modesty in his young mind, of his calm steadiness of character and a spirit riper than his years? Often would he chide his willing lord, and aid him with deep and zealous counsel; he shared thy joys and sorrows, nor ever lived to himself, but guided his looks by thy countenance; worthy was he to exceed in fame the Haemonian Pylades^d and the Athenians' loyalty^e; but let not his praise o'erstep his fortune: not more faithfully did Eumaeus, sick at heart, long for the return of tardy Ulysses.

What god, what chance makes choice of wounds so deadly? whence are the Fates so unerring in their power to harm? Ah! how much braver, Ursus, hadst thou been, stripped of thy wealth and

^b Parthenopaeus was one of the Seven against Thebes (see *Theb.* ix. 699), a warrior with the look of a maiden; the name means "maiden-faced."

^c *i.e.*, to the Olympian games.

^d *i.e.*, Patroclus (Haemonian = Thessalian), as faithful to Achilles as Pylades was to Orestes.

^e Of Theseus to Pirithous (Cecrops, ancient king of Athens).

STATIUS

fortior, Urse, fores ! si vel fumante ruina
 ructassent dites Vesuvina incendia Locroe
 seu Pollentinos mersissent flumina saltus
 seu Lucanus Acir¹ seu Thybridis impetus altas
 in dextrum torsisset aquas, paterere serena 65
 fronte deos ; sive alma fidem messesque negasset
 Cretaque Cyreneque et qua tibi cumque beato
 larga redivit Fortuna sinu. sed gnara dolorum
 Invidia infelix animi vitalia vidit
 laedendique vias. vitae modo cardine² adultae 70
 nectere temptabat iuvenum pulcherrimus ille
 cum tribus Eleis unam trieterida lustris.
 attendit torvo tristis Rhamnusia vultu,
 ac primum implevitque toros oculisque nitorem
 addidit ac solito sublimius ora levavit, 75
 heu ! misero letale favens, seseque videndo
 torsit et invidia³ mortemque amplexa iacenti
 iniecit nexu⁴ carpsitque immitis adunca
 ora verenda manu. quinto vix Phosphoros ortu⁵
 rorantem sternebat equum : iam litora duri 80
 saeva, Philete, senis, durumque Acheronta videbas,
 quo domini clamate sono ! non saevius atros
 nigrasset planctu genetrix tibi salva⁶ lacertos,
 nec pater ; et certe qui vidit funera frater

¹ Acir *Madvig* : ager *M.*

² cardine *Gronovius* : carmen *M.*, defended by *Ellis*, *J. Ph.* 13.

³ invidia *M.* : invidiam *Heinsius* : invidit *Ellis*.

⁴ nexu *Schwartz* : nexus *M.*

⁵ quinto . . . ortu *Schrader* : quinta . . . hora *M.*

⁶ salva *Polster* . saeva *M.*

^a i.e., if Ursus's property at Locri in Bruttium had been destroyed by an eruption (not, of course, of Vesuvius).

^b A lustre here is taken for a period of four years, the

goodly fortune ! if in smoking ruin rich Locri had belched forth Vesuvian fire,^a or rivers had submerged thy Pollentian glades, if Lucanian Acir or impetuous Tiber had swung their swollen waters to the right, thou hadst endured the will of heaven with unruffled brow; or if bounteous Crete and Cyrene had forsworn thee and denied their harvests, or wherever lavish Fortune returns to thee with plenteous bosom. But ill-omened Envy, skilled to hurt, saw the vital spot and the path of harm. Just at the gate of full-grown life that most beauteous of youths was striving to link three years to three Elean lustres.^b With grim frown the stern Rhamnusian ^c gave heed, and first she filled out his muscles and set a brilliance in his eyes and raised his head higher than of wont; deadly alas! to the poor lad were her favours: she tortured herself with envy at the sight, and clasping the sufferer struck death into him by her embrace,^d and with hooked, relentless fingers tore that pure countenance. Scarce was Phosphor at the fifth rising saddling his dewy steed: already, Philetus,^e wert thou beholding the bleak shore of heartless Charon and heartless Acheron, bewailed how bitterly by thy lord! Not more fiercely would thy mother, had she lived, blackened and bruised her arms for thee in lamentation, nor thy father either; verily thy brother

interval between the Olympic games; *i.e.*, the youth was between twelve and fifteen, or perhaps the actual fifteenth year is meant.

^c The goddess Nemesis.

^d "*Invidiam mortemque amplexa*" does not seem satisfactory; it is better to keep "*invidia*" of the mss., making it and "*videndo*" *abls.* after "*torsit*," and construe "*amplexa*" (*sc. iacentem*) *iniecit mortem (ei) nexu.*"

^e Apparently the boy's name; the word means "beloved."

STATIUS

erubuit vinci. sed nec servilis adempto 85
 ignis : odoriferos exhausit flamma Sabaeos
 et Cilicum messes, Phariaeque exempta volucris
 cinnama et Assyrio manantes gramine sucos
 et domini fletus : hos tantum hausere favillae,
 hos bibit usque rogos ; nec quod tibi Setia canos 90
 restinxit cineres, gremio nec lubricus ossa
 quod vallavit onyx, miseris acceptius umbris
 quam gemitus. sed et ipse iuvat¹ ? quid terga dolori,
 Urse, damus ? quid damna foves et pectore iniquo
 vulnus amas ? ubi nota reis facundia raptis ? 95
 quid caram crucias tam saevis luctibus umbram ?
 eximius licet ille animi meritusque doleri :
 solvisti. subit ille pios carpitque quietem
 Elysiam clarosque illic fortasse parentes
 invenit ; aut illi per amoena silentia Lethes 100
 forsan Avernales adludunt undique mixtae
 Naides, obliquoque notat Proserpina vultu.
 pone, precor, questus ; alium tibi Fata Phileton,
 forsan et ipse dabit moresque habitusque decoros
 monstrabit gaudens similemque docebit amorem.² 105

¹ iuvat *M* : iubet, vetat *edd.*

² amorem *Σ* : amor *M* : amari *Σ*.

^a Incense and saffron.

^b The Phoenix.

who saw thy funeral blushed to be outdone. No servile flames were thine : fragrant harvests of Saba and Cilicia ^a did the fire consume, and cinnamon stolen from the Pharian bird,^b and the juices that drip from Assyrian herbs—and thy master's tears : these only did the ashes drink, those the pyre ceased not to consume ; nor was the Setian wine that quenched the hoary ash, nor the smooth onyx that guarded his bones more grateful to the hapless shade than those tears. Yet can even tears avail him ? Why, Ursus, do we surrender to our sorrow ? Why dost thou cherish thy loss, and perversely love thy wound ? Where is that eloquence that prisoners dragged to judgement knew ? Why dost thou vex that dear shade by savage shows of grief ? Peerless of soul was he and worthy to be mourned : but thou hast paid that debt, and he is entering the company of the blest and enjoys Elysian peace, and perchance finds there famous ancestors ; or haply by the pleasant silences of Lethe Nymphs of Avernus mingle and sport around him, and Proserpine notes him with sidelong glance. Mourn then no more, I pray thee ; the Fates, and he himself perhaps, will give thee another Philetus, and gladly he will show him seemly ways and fashions, and teach him a love to match his own.

VII. GENETHLIACON LUCANI AD
POLLAM

Lucani proprium diem frequentet,
 quisquis colibus Isthmiae Diones
 docto pectora concitatus oestro
 pendentis bibit ungulae liquorem.
 ipsi, quos penes est honor canendi, 5
 vocalis citharae repertor Arcas
 et tu Bassaridum rotator Euhan
 et Paeon et Hyantiae sorores,
 laetae purpureas novate vittas,
 crinem comite, candidamque vestem 10
 perfundant hederæ recentiores.
 docti largius evagentur amnes,
 et plus Aoniae virete silvae,
 et, si qua patet aut¹ diem recepit,
 sertis mollibus expleatur umbra. 15
 centum Thespiacis odora lucis
 stent altaria victimaeque centum,
 quas Dirce lavat aut alit Cithaeron :
 Lucanum canimus, favete linguis,
 vestra est ista dies, favete, Musae, 20
 dum qui vos geminas tulit per artes,
 et vinctae pede vocis et solutae,
 Romani colitur chori sacerdos.

¹ patet aut *m* : pater aut *L* : patera ut *M* : patulam *Markland* : Patareus *coni.* *Verrall.*

^a The fountain of Hippocrene caused by the hoof of Pegasus, which Statius here places on the Isthmus; he seems to confuse it with Pirene, the spring at Corinth (*cf. Theb.* iv. 60). Pirene was also connected with the Pegasus story, see Pindar, *Ol.* 13. 60. It is not clear what Dione (Venus) has to do with the Isthmus.

VII. AN ODE TO POLLA IN HONOUR OF
LUCAN'S BIRTHDAY

The title Genethliacon was usually applied to an ode written in honour of a living person. This ode, however, is a commemoration of Lucan after his death, addressed to Polla, his widow. Into it is introduced a prophecy of his fame spoken by Calliope on the day of his birth.

Come to Lucan's birthday-feast, all ye who on the hills of Isthmian Dione, with hearts fired by poetic frenzy, drink of the spring that the flying hoof struck forth.^a Ye who have the privilege of song in your keeping, Arcadian discoverer of the vocal lyre, and thou, Euhæan, whirler of thy Bassarids, and Pææan and the Hyantian Sisters,^b joyfully deck yourselves anew with purple fillets, make your tresses trim and let fresh ivy enwreath your shining raiment. Flow more abundantly, poetic streams, and be more brightly green, ye woodlands of Aonia,^c and if anywhere your shade hath opened and taken in the sunlight, let soft garlands fill the room. Let a hundred fragrant altars stand in the Thesopian^d groves, and a hundred victims that Dirce laves and Cithæron pastures : 'tis of Lucan we sing, keep holy silence ; this is your day, ye Muses, keep silence, while he who made you glorious in two arts, in the measures of fettered speech and free,^e is honoured as the high priest of the Roman choir.

^b Mercury, Bacchus, Apollo, and the Muses. Hyantian = Boeotian.

^c Boeotia, i.e. Helicon or Parnassus.

^d Thespieæ was at the foot of Helicon.

^e Poetry was often described as "fettered," i.e. bound by the rules of metre, prose as freed from such rules.

STATIUS

Felix—heu nimis !—et beata tellus,
 quae pronos Hyperionis meatus 25
 summis Oceani vides in undis
 stridoremque rotae cadentis audis,
 quae Tritonidi¹ fertiles Athenas
 unctis, Baetica, provocas trapetis :
 Lucanum potes imputare terris ! 30
 hoc plus quam Senecam dedisse mundo
 aut dulcem generasse Gallionem.
 attollat refluos in astra fontes
 Graio nobilior Melete Baetis² ;
 Baetim, Mantua, provocare noli. 35
 Natum protinus atque humum per ipsam
 primo murmure dulce vagientem
 blando Calliope sinu recepit.
 tum primum posito remissa luctu
 longos Orpheos exiit dolores 40
 et dixit : “ puer o dicite Musis,
 longaevos cito transiture vates,
 non tu flumina nec greges ferarum
 nec plectro Geticas movebis ornos,
 sed septem iuga Martiumque Thybrim 45
 et doctos equites et eloquente
 cantu purpureum trahes senatum.
 nocturnas alii Phrygum ruinas
 et tardi reducis vias Ulixis
 et puppem temerariam Minervae, 50
 trita vatibus orbita, sequantur :
 tu carus Latio memorque gentis
 carmen fortior exseris togatum.
 ac primum teneris adhuc in annis

¹ Tritonidi *Bentley*: tritonide *M*.

² Melete Betis *M*: m&eleb&is *L*.

Happy land—too happy alas !—and blest, that on the verge of Ocean's waves beholdest Hyperion slope downward to his setting, and hearest the hiss of plunging wheels ; even thou, Baetica, whose dripping olive-presses vie with Athens, that is fertile for Tritonis : thou canst account mankind in debt to thee for Lucan !^a This is more than to have given Seneca to the world, or to have borne the sweet-tongued Gallio. Let Baetis, more renowned than Grecian Meles,^b flow backward and be exalted to the stars ; Mantua, dare not to challenge Baetis !

Straightway, while yet a new-born babe he crawled and with earliest accents sweetly whimpered, Calliope took him to her loving bosom. Then first did she lay aside her grief and cease her long lament for Orpheus, and said : “ O boy, consecrate to poesy, soon destined to outmatch the bards of old, thou shalt move no rivers or wild herds or Thracian ash-trees with thy music, but with eloquent song shalt draw after thee the seven lulls and Martian Tiber and the learned knights and purple Senate. Let others follow the tracks that poets' wheels have worn, the night of Phrygia's overthrow, Ulysses' slow returning path, Minerva's daring vessel .^c thou, dear to Latium and mindful of thy race, more boldly dost unsheathe a Roman epic. And first, while in tender youth, thou

^a Lucan was born at Corduba, as was also the philosopher Seneca, his uncle. Gallio was a rhetorician, brother of the younger Seneca, and the adopted son of Junius Gallio.

^b The river near Homer's birthplace, Smyrna, hence he is sometimes called Melesigenes. Lucan was born at Corduba in Baetica. “Tritonis” = Pallas.

^c *i.e.* *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Argonautica*.

STATIUS

ludes ¹ Hectora Thessalosque currus et supplex Priami potentis aurum, et sedes reserabis inferorum, ingratus Nero dulcibus theatris et noster tibi proferetur Orpheus. dices culminibus Remi vagantis infandos domini nocentis ignes. hinc castae titulum decusque Pollae iocunda dabis adlocutione.	55
mox coepta generosior iuventa albos ossibus Italis Philippos et Pharsalica bella detonabis, convulsum ² ducis inter arma divi, libertate gravem pia Catonem et gratum popularitate Magnum. tu Pelusiaci scelus Canopi deflebis pius et Pharo cruenta Pompero dabis altius sepulcrum. haec primo iuvenis canes sub aevo, ante annos Culcis Maroniani. cedet Musa rudis ferocis Enni et docti furor arduus Lucreti, et qui per freta duxit Argonautas, et qui corpora prima transfigurat. quid maius loquar ? ipsa te Latinis Aeneis venerabitur canentem. nec solum dabo carminum nitorem,	60 65 70 75 80

¹ ludes *L* : laudes *MI* : laudas *m*.

² convulsum *Slater* : quo fulmen *LM*, et *Dom.*, quod *Markland*.

^a The works of Lucan here alluded to are (i.) *The Tale of Troy*, (ii.) *A Catachthonion, or Journey to the Underworld*, (iii.) *A Praise of Nero*, (iv.) *The Story of Orpheus*, (v.) a de-
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shalt practise thy pen ^a on Hector and the chariots of Thessaly and king Priam's suppliant gold, and shalt unlock the abodes of hell; ungrateful Nero and my own Orpheus shall be set forth by thee to favouring theatres. Thou shalt tell how the impious fires of the guilty monarch ranged the heights of Remus. Then by a charming address thou shalt bestow fame and glory upon chaste Polla. Thereafter more generous in ripened manhood thou shalt thunderously rehearse Phulppi, white with Italian bones, and Pharsalian wars, and Cato, grave champion of Freedom, blasted amidst the arms of the divine chief,^b and Magnus, favourite of the people. Thou shalt shed reverent tears for the crime of Pelusian Canopus, and raise to Pompey ^c a memorial loftier than blood-stained Pharos. These lays shalt thou sing as a youth in early prime,^d before the age at which Virgil wrote his *Gnat*. The untutored Muse of bold Ennius shall give way to thine, and the towering frenzy of learned Lucretius, he ^e too who led the Argonauts through the narrow seas, and he who changes bodies from their former shapes.^f What greater praise can I give? the *Aeneid* itself, as thou singest to Roman folk, shall do thee homage. Nor will I give thee splendour of song alone, but with

clamoration "de Incendio Urbis," (vi.) an "allocutio," or poem to Polla, his wife, (vii.) the *Pharsalia*. Fragments of (i.) and (ii.) remain.

^b Caesar, subsequently deified.

^c The murder of Pompey there after Pharsalus.

^d *i.e.*, before he was twenty-six; hence it is argued that "XVI." in Donatus's life of Virgil must be changed to "XXVI.," as the year in which he wrote the *Culex*.

^e Varro Atacinus.

^f Ovid in the *Metamorphoses*.

STATIUS

sed taedis genialibus dicabo
doctam atque ingenio tuo decoram,
qualem blanda Venus daretque Iuno
forma, simplicitate, comitate, 85
censu, sanguine, gratia, decore.
et vestros hymenaeon ante postes
festis cantibus ipsa personabo.
o saevae nimium gravesque Parcae !
o numquam data longa fata summis ! 90
cur plus, ardua, casibus patetis ?
cur saeva vice magna non senescunt ?
sic natum Nasamonii Tonantis
post ortus obitusque fulminatos
angusto Babylon premit sepulcro. 95
sic fixum Paridis manu trementis¹
Peliden Thetis horruit cadentem.
sic ripis ego murmurantis Hebri
non mutum caput Orpheos sequebar.
sic et tu—rabidi nefas tyranni !— 100
iussus praecipitem subire Lethen,
dum pugnās canis arduaue voce
das solacia grandibus sepulcris,
—o dirum scelus ! o scelus !—tacebis.”
sic fata est leviterque decedentes 105
abrasit lacrimas nitente plectro.
At tu, seu rapidum poli per axem
Famae curribus arduis levatus,
qua surgunt animae potentiores,

¹ trementis S : prementis LM.

^a The construction is paralleled by Plautus, *Miles* 619
“neque te decora neque tuis virtutibus.”

^b Alexander the Great, who proclaimed himself the son
of the Libyan god Ammon (= Jupiter).

the torches of wedlock ^a will bestow on thee a poetess suited to thy genius, for beauty, simplicity, graciousness, wealth, lineage, charm, and loveliness worthy of kindly Venus' or of Juno's giving, and myself will chant before your gate the festal marriage-hymn. Alas ! ye Fates, too stern and cruel ! Alas ! that the highest never long endure ! Why are lofty things most prone to fall ? Why by a cruel chance doth greatness ne'er grow old ? Even so is the son of the Nasamonian Thunderer,^b whose lightning flashed from rising to setting sun,^c confined in a narrow tomb at Babylon. Even so did Thetis swoon to see Pelides fall, pierced by the hand of coward Paris. Even so did I upon the banks of murmuring Hebrus follow the head of Orpheus not mute in death. Even so on thee—ah ! the impious^d frenzied tyrant !—bidden while singing of battles and with lofty utterance solacing the mighty dead to plunge in Lethe's rushing stream—O crime, O most foul crime !—on thee too shall silence fall." She spoke, and with shining quill brushed away her lightly-falling tears.

But ^e thou, whether uplifted in the soaring chariot of fame through the whirling vault of heaven, whither rise more puissant souls, thou lookest down upon the

^c Or "after his lightning-swift rise and setting." But "fulmen" is commonly used in poetry of a warlike hero, as "duo fulmina belli" of the Scipios by Virgil, and Sidonius seems to be imitating Statius in "paterno actum fulmine pervolassee terras" (ix. 50), and in "vitam fulminibus parem peregit" (xliii. 96).

^d Postgate takes "nefas" in apposition to "tu," "a reproach to the frenzied tyrant," i.e. Lucan is to be a reproach to the tyrant Nero.

^e Cf. the opening of *Phars.* ix.

STATIUS

terras despicias et sepulcra rides ;	110
seu pacis merito nemus reclusi	
felix Elysii tenes in oris,	
quo Phaisalica turba congregatur,	
et te nobile carmen insonantem	
Pompei comitantur et Catones,	115
seu ¹ magna sacer et superbus umbra	
noscis ² Tartaron et procul nocentum	
audis verbera pallidumque visa	
matris lampade respicias Neronem,	
adsis lucidus et vocante Polla	120
unum, quaeso, diem deos silentum	
exores . solet hoc patere limen	
ad nuptas redeuntibus maritis.	
haec te non thiasis procax dolosis	
falsi numinis induit figura,	125
ipsum sed colit et frequentat ipsum	
imis altius insitum medullis,	
ac solacia vana ³ subministrat	
vultus, qui simili notatus auro	
stratis praenitet incubatque somno	130
securae. procul hinc abite, Mortes :	
haec vitae genialis est origo.	
cedat luctus atrox genisque manent	
iam dulces lacrimae dolorque festus,	
quicquid fleverat ante, nunc adoret.	135

¹ seu *Heinsius* : tu *LM* : dum *Bursian*.

² noscis *Haupt* : nescis *LM*.

³ vana *LM* : vera *Baehrens*.

^a Nero had his mother Agrippina put to death.

^b Statius has in mind here the story of Laodamia and Protesilaus, who was allowed to return to his wife for one day. Laodamia venerated her husband in the form of

earth and laughest at sepulchres ; or whether on Elysian shores that thy deserts have won thee thou hast gained the blissful bower of peace, where the heroes of Pharsalus forgather, and as thy noble lay resounds a Pompey or a Cato bears thee company ; or whether a mighty shade, inviolable and proud, thou visitest Tartarus and hearest afar the stripes of the guilty and beholdest Nero pale at the sight of his mother's torch : ^a be present in shining splendour, and, since Polla calls thee, gain one day, I beg, from the gods of the silent world : ^b open is that door to husbands returning to their brides. She clothes thee not in the shape of an unreal deity, in the wantonness of lying revels, but worships thy very self and has communion with thee in her being's inmost depths, and wins but empty solace from thy countenance which carved to thy likeness in gold shines above her couch and broods over her untroubled slumbers. Depart far hence, ye Deaths : here is the well-spring of sustaining life.^c Let stubborn sorrow have an end, and tears of happiness now fall, and the mourning of solemn grief be turned to adoration.

Bacchus, and seems to have feigned herself a votary of that god, to avoid a second marriage. Polla's reverence for her husband does not need such aid. It was a contemporary custom, to honour the dead in the form of deities, *cf. Silvae*, v. 1. 231, Suet. *Cal.* 7 of the young son of Germanicus and Agrippina, who died in early boyhood ; Livia set up an image of him in the character of Cupid, *cf. also Apuleius, Met.* viii. 7.

^c The Genius or vital principle, incarnate in the head of the family while he is alive, still abides for Polla in the spirit of the departed, with whom she enjoys a mystic communion.

LIBER III

STATIUS POLLIO SUO SALUTEM

Tibi certe, Polli dulcissime et hac cui tam fideliter inhaeres quiete dignissime, non habeo diu probandam libellorum istorum temeritatem, cum scias multos ex illis in sinu tuo subito natos et hanc audaciam stili nostri frequenter expaveris, quotiens in illius facundiae tuae penetrali seductus altius litteras intro et in omnes a te studiorum sinus ducor. Securus itaque tertius hic silvarum nostrarum liber ad te mittitur. Habuerat quidem te secundus testem sed hic habet auctorem. Nam primum lumen eius Hercules Surrentinus aperit, quem in litore tuo consecratum, statim ut videram, his versibus adoravi. Sequitur libellus, quo splendidissimum et mihi iucundissimum iuvenem, Maecium Celerem, a sacratissimo imperatore missum ad legionem Syriacam, quia sequi non poteram, sic prosecutus sum. Merebatur et Claudii Etrusci mei pietas aliquod ex studiis nostris solacium, cum lugeret veris — quod iam

^a Pollius : see on ii. 2 and iii. 1.

BOOK III

STATIUS TO HIS FRIEND POLLIUS^a: GREETING!

To you at least, my dearest Pollius, than whom none is more worthy of that tranquillity to which you cling so faithfully, to you at least I need not justify at great length the boldness of my verses, for you know that many of them came suddenly to birth under your protecting care, and often have you been alarmed at the audacity of my pen, when in the intimacy of your genius I have ventured deep into the secluded realm of letters, and have been led by you through all the winding ways of poesy.

And so it is without fear that I send you this third volume of my *Impromptu* verses. For while you lent your witness to the second, to this you have given the authority of your name. For its gates are unbarred by the Surrentine Hercules, to which, when I had seen it after its dedication on your shore, I at once paid my tribute in these lines. Then comes a poem, which, when my charming and distinguished friend, Maecius Celer, was ordered by our sacred Emperor to the Syrian front, since I could not follow him, I sent to attend him on his way. The devotion of my dear Claudius Etruscus also deserved some solace from my pen when in real grief—and how rare that is!—he was mourning

STATIUS

rarissimum¹ est — lacrimis senem patrem. Earinus praeterea, Germanici nostri libertus — scis² quamdiu desiderium eius moratus sim, cum petisset ut capillos suos, quos cum gemmata pyxide et speculo ad Pergamenum Asclepium mittebat, versibus dedicarem. Summa est egloga, qua mecum secedere Neapolim Claudiam meam exhortor. Hic, si verum dicimus, sermo et quidem securus, ut cum uxore et qui persuadere malit quam placere. Huic praecipue libello favebis, cum scias hanc destinationem quietis meae tibi maxime intendere meque non tam in patriam quam ad te secedere. Vale.

I

HERCULES SURRENTINUS POLLII FELICIS

Intermissa tibi renovat, Tiryntiæ, sacra
Pollius et causas designat desidis anni,
quod coleris maiore tholo, nec litora pauper
nuda tenes tectumque vagis habitabile nautis,
sed nitidos postes Graisque effulta metallis 5
culmina, ceu taedis iterum lustratus honesti
ignis ab Oetaea conscenderis aethera flamma.
vix oculis animoque fides. tune ille reclusi

¹ iam rarissimum *Baehrens*: amarissimum *M*: rarissimum
5.

² scis *Vollmer*: scit *M*.

^a A common epithet of Hercules, who was reared at Tiryns, though born at Thebes.

^b *i.e.*, having the new temple is like being deified anew. Oeta was the scene of the burning of Hercules and his apotheosis.

for his aged father. Next Earinus, freedman of our prince Germanicus—you know how long I have put off the Emperor's expressed desire that I should write some verses in honour of his tresses, which he was sending to Asclepius at Pergamum together with a mirror and a jewelled box. Finally there is the piece in which I entreat my wife Claudia to retire with me to Naples. Thus, to tell the truth, is just talk, quite unreserved, from a husband to a wife, and that would persuade rather than delight. You will particularly favour this poem, since you will know that you above all are the object of my proposed retreat, and that my retirement is not so much to my own country as to yourself. Farewell.

I. THE TEMPLE OF HERCULES BUILT BY POLLIUS FELIX AT SURRENTUM

The poem describes how Pollius built a more worthy temple for Hercules in the neighbourhood of his villa, the god himself gave assistance, and the work was finished with miraculous speed. The piece ends with praise of Pollius, put into the mouth of the grateful deity.

Pollus renews thy interrupted rites, O lord of Tiryns,^a and makes clear the causes of a year's neglect, seeing that now thou art worshipped beneath a mightier dome, and no longer hast a beggarly home on the naked shore, a shanty where wandering mariners can lodge, but shining portals and towers upheld by Grecian marbles, as though purified by the brands of ennobling fire thou hadst a second time ascended heavenward from Oeta's flames.^b Scarce can sight or memory be trusted. Art thou verily that

STATIUS

liminis et parvae custos inglorius arae ?
 unde haec aula recens fulgorque inopinus agresti 10
 Alcidae ? sunt fata deum, sunt fata locorum !
 o velox pietas ! steriles hic nuper harenas,
 adsparsum pelago montis latus hirtaque dumis
 saxa nec ulla pati faciles vestigia terras
 cernere erat. quatenam subito fortuna rigentes 15
 ditavit scopulos ? Tyrione haec moenia plectro
 an Getica venere lyra ? stupet ipse labores
 annus, et angusti bissenno limite menses
 longaevum mirantur opus. deus attulit arces
 erexitque suas atque obluctantia saxa 20
 summovit nitens et magno pectore montem
 reppulit : immitem credas iussisse novercam.

Ergo age, seu patrios liber iam legibus Argos
 incolis et mersum tumulis Eurysthea calcas,
 sive tui solium Iovis et virtute parata 25
 astra tenes, haustumque tibi succincta beati
 nectaris excluso melior Phryge porrigit Hebe :
 huc ades et genium templis nascentibus infer.
 non te Lerna nocens nec pauperis arva Molochi
 nec formidatus Nemees ager antraque poscunt 30
 Thracia nec Pharii polluta altaria regis,
 sed felix simplexque domus fraudumque malarum
 inscia et hospitibus superis dignissima sedes.
 pone truces arcus agmenque immitte pharetrae
 et regum multo perfusum sanguine robur, 35
 instratumque umeris dimitte rigentibus¹ hostem :

¹ rigentibus *Gervart* : gerentibus *M* : ingentibus *Markland*.

^a Amphion and Orpheus.

^b He entertained Hercules before the slaying of the Nemean lion.

inglorious warden of a gateless threshold and a puny altar? Whence hath the rustic Alcides this new court and this unwonted splendour? Gods have their destinies and places also! What swift devotion! Here of late could be seen but barren sands, a wave-beaten mountain-side, and boulders rough with scrub, and cliffs that would scarce admit a foothold. What sudden fortune has embellished these stark crags? Did those walls rise to Tyrian music or to the Getic harp? ^a The year itself marvels at the toil, and the months in their twelvefold orbit are amazed to see the work of ages. 'Twas the god that brought and uplifted his own towers, and by might and main moved the resisting boulders, and with huge breast drove back the mountain; you would have thought his cruel stepdame bade him.

Come then, whether free at last from thralldom thou dwellest in thy ancestral Argos, and spurnest Eurystheus in his grave, or whether the throne of thy father Jove and the stars thy valour won thee are thy abode, and Hebe with robe upgirt, more charming than the banished Phrygian lad, hands thee the draught of blissful nectar: hither come, and bring thy presence to the new-born shrine. No harmful Lerna calls thee, nor the acres of poor Molorchus ^b nor Nemea's dreaded field, nor Thracian caves nor the polluted altars of the Pharian prince, ^c but a blest and innocent home that knows naught of evil fraud, an abode most worthy of a divine guest. Lay aside thy ruthless bow and thy quiver's cruel horde and the club that plenteous blood of kings hath stained; cast off the foe that is spread upon thy

^a The capture of the Horses of Diomedes in Thrace and the slaughter of Busiris in Egypt are referred to.

STATIUS

hic tibi Sidonio celsum pulvinar acantho
 textitur et signis crescit torus asper eburnis.
 pacatus mitisque veni nec turbidus ira
 nec famulare timens, sed quem te Maenalis Auge 40
 confectum thiasis et multo fratre madentem
 detinuit qualemque vagae post crimina noctis
 Thespius obstupuit, totiens socer. hic tibi festa
 gymnas, et insontes iuvenum sine caestibus¹ irae
 annua veloci peragunt certamina lustris. 45
 hic templis inscriptus avo gaudente sacerdos
 parvus adhuc similisque tui, cum prima novercae
 monstra manu premeres atque exanimata doleres.
 Sed quaenam subiti, veneranda, exordia templi,
 dic age, Calliope; socius tibi grande sonabit 50
 Alcides tensoque modos imitabitur arcu.
 Tempus erat, caeli cum torrentissimus axis
 incumbit terris ictusque Hyperione multo
 acer anhelantes incendit Sirius agros.
 iamque dies aderat, profugis cum regibus aptum 55
 fumat Aricinum Triviae nemus et face multa
 conscius Hippolyti splendet lacus; ipsa coronat
 emeritos Diana canes et spicula terget
 et tutas sinit ire feras, omnisque pudicis

¹ caestibus *M*: testibus *5*: caedibus *Markland*.

^a Of Tegea in Arcadia, mother of Telephus by Hercules. The jovial and amatory character of the god is a common theme of ancient literature.

^b Bacchus was a brother of Hercules, being equally son of Zeus.

^c Probably the eldest son of Julius Menecrates, to whom iv. 8 is addressed.

^d The snakes that Hera sent to slay him in his cradle.

^e Hippolytus when healed by Asclepius was hidden by Diana in her precinct by the lake. The lake of Nemi is

stalwart shoulders : here are high-piled cushions for thee, embroidered with acanthus in purple hue, and a lofty couch all rough with ivory carving. Come in a peaceable and gentle spirit, not turbulent with wrath nor suspicious like a slave, but in such mood as when Auge ^a the Maenalian maid detained thee, worn out with revel and drenched with thy brother's wine,^b or when Thespius, the father of thy many brides, marvelled at thee after the reproach of that roving night. Here hast thou a festal playing-ground, where ungloved youths in innocent rivalry perform the yearly, swift-recurring contests. Here on thy temple is written thy priest's name to the joy of his grandsire : ^c small is he yet, and like to thee when with thy hand thou didst quell the first monsters of thy stepdame ^d and weep that they were slain.

But come, august Calliope, tell how the sudden shrine arose ; Alcides will bear thee company with ringing voice, and twang his bowstring to imitate thy strains.

'Twas the season when the vault of heaven bends its most scorching heat upon the earth, and the Dog-star smitten by Hyperion's full might pitilessly burns the panting fields. And now the day had come, when the torch-smoke rises from Trivia's grove at Aricia, refuge of the runaways who reign there, and the lights twinkle on the lake that knew the secret of Hippolytus ^e ; Diana herself sets garlands on her faithful hounds, and polishes her darts and lets the wild beasts go free, while at its virtuous

close to Aricia ; the priest of the shrine was called " rex Nemorensis," and was a runaway slave who " slays the slayer and shall himself be slain."

STATIUS

Itala terra focis Hecateidas excolit idus. 60
 ast ego, Dardaniae quamvis sub collibus Albae
 rus proprium magnique ducis mihi munere currens
 unda domi curas mulcere aestusque levare
 sufficerent, notas Sirenium nomine rupes
 facundique larem Polli non hospes habebam, 65
 assidue moresque viri pacemque novosque
 Pieridum flores intactaque carmina discens.
 forte diem Triviae dum litore ducimus udo
 angustasque fores adsuetaque tecta gravati
 frondibus et patula defendimus arbore soles, 70
 delituit caelum et subitis lux candida cessit
 nubibus ac tenuis graviore favonius austro
 immaduit; qualem Libyae Saturnia nimbium
 attulit, Iliaco dum dives Elissa marito
 donatur testesque ululant per devia nymphae. 75
 diffugimus, festasque dapes redimitaque vina
 abripiunt famuli; nec quo convivia migrent,
 quamvis innumerae gaudentia rura superne
 insedere domus et multo culmine dives
 mons nitet: instantes sed proxima quaerere nimbi
 suadebant laesique fides reditura sereni. 81
 stabat dicta sacri tenuis casa nomine templi
 et magnum Alciden humili lare parva premebat,
 fluctivagos nautas scrutatoresque profundi
 vix operire capax. huc omnis turba coimus. 85
 huc epulae ditesque tori coetusque ministrum
 stipantur nitidaeque cohors gratissima Pollae.
 non cepere fores, angustaque deficit aedes.

^a August 13th.

^b i.e., Diana.

^c Because founded by the Trojans under Aeneas.

^d Domitian had built the poet a water-conduit on his estate at Alba, where the Emperor himself had a residence.

^e Surrentum, cf. ii. 2.

^f See Virg. *Aen.* iv. 160.

hearths all Italy celebrates the Ides ^a of Hecate.^b
 But I, although beneath Dardanian Alba's hills ^c an
 estate of my own and a rivulet that runs for me by
 the grace of our great prince ^d sufficed to soothe my
 cares and to allay the summer heat, was making the
 rocks of the Sirens ^e and the home of eloquent Pollius
 my abode, no stranger there, and zealously gaining
 knowledge of his peaceful soul and studying the new
 Pierian blooms of his innocent Muse. It chanced
 that, while we were spending Trivia's day upon the
 watery shore, and discontented with narrow doors
 and wonted house were sheltering from the sun
 'neath the foliage of a spreading tree, the sky was
 hid, the bright light gave place to sudden cloud and
 the faint breeze changed to a heavy downpour from
 the south ; such a storm as Saturnia brought upon
 Libya, while wealthy Elissa was given to her Ilia
 lover and the witnessing Nymphs shrieked in the
 pathless glades.^f Helter-skelter we fly, and the
 slaves snatch up the festal banquet and wreathed
 goblets ; nor was there any refuge for the guests,
 though countless houses were planted on the happy
 fields above, and the mountain glittered with a
 wealth of towers : but the lowering clouds and the
 assurance that the fair weather, though ruined,
 would return, urged us to seek the nearest shelter.
 There stood a mean shanty bearing the name of a
 sacred shrine, that confined the great Alcides within
 its humble walls, scarce large enough to house sea-
 wandering mariners and searchers of the deep Hither
 all the crowd of us gather, hither throng the band
 of slaves with the costly couches and the feast, and all
 the pleasant household of elegant Polla. The doors
 would not contain us, the narrow shrine lacked room.

erubuit risitque deus dilectaque Polli
 corda subit blandisque virum complectitur ulnis. 90
 "tune," inquit, "largitor opum. qui mente profusa
 tecta Dicarchei pariter iuvenemque replesti
 Parthenopen^a nostro qui tot fastigia monti,
 tot virides lucos, tot saxa imitantia vultus
 aeraque, tot scripto viventes lumine ceras 95
 fixisti^b quid enim ista domus, quid terra, priusquam
 te gauderet, erat^c longo tu tramite nudos
 texisti scopulos, fueratque ubi semita tantum,
 nunc tibi distinctis stat porticus alta columnis,
 ne sorderet iter. curvi tu litoris ora 100
 clausisti calidas gemina testudine nymphas.
 vix opera enumerem; mihi pauper et indigus unum
 Pollius^d et tales hilaris tamen intro penates
 et litus, quod pandis, amo. sed proxima sedem
 despicit et tacite ridet mea limina Iuno. 105
 da templum dignasque tuis conatibus aras,
 quas puppes velis nolint transire secundis,
 quo pater aetherius mensisque accita deorum
 turba et ab excelso veniat soror hospita templo.
 nec te, quod solidus contra riget umbo maligni 110
 montis et immenso non umquam exesus ab aevo,
 terreat: ipse adero et conamina tanta iuvabo
 asperaque invitae perfringam viscera terrae.
 incipe et Herculeis fidens hortatibus aude.

^a Founder of Puteoli.

^b "iuvenem" seems to be a play upon the literal meaning of Parthenope (*παρθενος* = maiden), cf. iv. 8. 55. Statius is fond of doing this, cf. *Phemonoe* (ii. 2. 38), *Pimplea* (ib. 37).

^c Not otherwise mentioned, exc. l. 137.

^d It would stop either to look at and salute the temple,

The god blushed, and laughing stole into the heart of his beloved Pollius, and with caressing arms embraced his friend: "Art thou," said he, "that lavisher of wealth, who with generous heart hast filled full alike the dwellings of Dicarcheus^a and youthful^b Parthenope? who on my own mount hast set so many towers, so many verdant groves, so many lifelike marbles and bronzes, and waxen forms that the glow of colour animates? For what was that house of thine, that country before it rejoiced in thee? Thou didst clothe bare rock with a long pathway, and where before was but a track, now stands a lofty colonnade with painted pillars, that the road might be seemly. Upon the curving strand thou didst imprison heated waters 'neath cupolas twain. Scarce can I number all thy works: and to me alone is Pollius needy and in want? yet even such a shrine I enter cheerfully, and love the shore thou openest to me. But Juno hard by^c scorns my dwelling, and laughs silently at my shrine. Give me a temple and an altar worthy of thy endeavours, an altar such as no vessel would fain neglect^d though speeding with prosperous sail, one to which the ethereal Sire and the guests of heavenly banquets and my sister invited from her lofty shrine might come.^e Nor be dismayed that a mass of stark, malignant mountain doth confront thee, which unnumbered ages have not worn away; I will myself be present to aid so great an enterprise, and will break through the flinty bowels of the unwilling earth. Begin, and dare the task, trusting in Hercules' encouragement.

cf. Stat. Theb. iv. 812, or even to disembark and worship,
cf. Virg. Aen. iii. 453.

^e From the promontory of Minerva near by.

non Amphoniae steterint velocius arces 115
 Pergameusve labor." dixit mentemque relquit.
 Nec mora, cum scripta formatur imagine tela.
 innumerae coiere manus : his caedere silvas
 et levare trabes. illis immergere curae
 fundamenta solo. coquitur pars umida terrae 120
 protectura hiemes atque exclusura pruinas,
 indomitusque silex curva fornace liquescit.
 praecipuus sed enim labor est excindere dextra
 oppositas rupes et saxa negantia ferro.
 hic pater ipse loci positus Tiryntius armis 125
 insudat validaque solum deforme bipenni,
 cum grave nocturna caelum subtexitur umbra,
 ipse fodit. ditiesque Caprae¹ viridesque resultant
 Taurubulae, et terris ingens redit aequoris echo.
 non tam grande sonat motis incudibus Aetne, 130
 cum Brontes Steropesque ferit, nec maior ab antris
 Lemniacis fragor est, ubi flammeus aegida caelat
 Mulciber et castis exornat Pallada donis.
 decrescunt scopuli, et rosea sub luce reversi
 artifices mirantur opus. vix annus anhelat 135
 alter, et ingenti dives Tiryntius arce
 despectat fluctus et iunctae tecta novercae
 provocat et dignis invitat Pallada templis.
 iam placidae dant signa tubae, iam fortibus ardens
 fumat harena sacris. hos nec Pisaeus honores 140
 Iuppiter aut Cirrhae pater aspernetur opacae.
 nil his triste locis ; cedat lacrimabilis Isthmos,

¹ ditiesque Caprae *M* : dites Capreae *Σ*.

^a The walls of Troy were built by Apollo and Neptune, those of Thebes by the music of Amphion.

^b Cf. "corda subit," l. 90. ^c An island near Naples.

Amphion's towers will not have risen more swiftly, nor the toilsome walls of Troy.^a” He spoke, and went from out his heart.^b

Without delay the design is sketched and the plan shaped. Innumerable workers gather: some have the task of felling trees or planing beams, others sink the foundations in the soil. Moist clay is baked to protect against storm and to keep out frost, and untamed limestone is melted in the round furnace. But the chief labour is to cleave by might and main the opposing rock and the boulders that resist the steel. Hereupon the patron of the place, the Tirynthian himself, lays by his arms and sweats at the work, and himself with strong axe hews at the shapeless mass, when the lowering sky is veiled by the shades of night. Rich Caprae and green Taurubulae^c resound, and the mighty echo of the sea returns again to the land. Not so loud is Aetna's din, when the anvils are busy and Brontes and Steropes ply the hammer, nor greater the noise from the Lemnian caves when Mulciber amid his flames forges the aegis and makes chaste gifts for Pallas. The cliffs diminish, and the workmen returning in the rosy dawn marvel at the achievement. Scarce has a second panting summer come, when the Tirynthian enriched by a mighty dome looks down upon the waves and challenges his stepdame's neighbouring abode, and invites Pallas to a temple worthy of her. Already the peaceful trumpets give the signal, already the sand smokes and burns with the valiant contests. Such honours would neither Pisaeon Jove nor the sire of leafy Cirrha spurn.^d No sadness is here: let tearful Isthmos and cruel Nemea give

^a *i.e.*, at the games of Olympia and Delphi.

STATIUS

cedat atrox Nemeë : litat hic felicior infans.
 ipsae pumiceis¹ virides Nereides antris
 exsiliunt ultro : scopulis umentibus haerent 145
 nec pudet occulte nudas spectare palaestras.
 spectat et Icario nemorosus palmite Gaurus
 silvaque, quae fixam pelago Nesida coronat,
 et placidus Limon omenque² Euploea carinis
 et Lucrina Venus, Phrygioque e vertice Graias 150
 addisces, Misene, tubas, ridetque benigna
 Parthenope gentile sacrum nudosque virorum
 certatus et parva suae simulacra coronae.

Quin age et ipse libens proprii certaminis actus
 invicta dignare manu ; seu nubila disco 155
 findere seu volucres zephyros praecedere telo
 seu tibi dulce manu Libycas nodare palaestras,
 indulge sacris, et, si tibi poma supersunt
 Hesperidum, gremio venerabilisingere Pollae ;
 nam capit et tantum non degenerabit³ honorem. 160
 quod si dulce decus viridesque resumeret annos,
 —da veniam, Alcide—fors huic et pensa tulisses.

Haec ego nascentes laetus bacchatus ad aras
 libamenta tuli. nunc ipse⁴ in limine—cerno :
 solventem voces et talia dicta ferentem : 165

¹ pumiceis *5* : pumiceis *M Pol.* (*from P*).

² Limon omenque *Guyet* : limo numenque *M*.

³ degenerabit *M* : degener ambit *Gronovius*.

⁴ ipse *M* : ipsum *Dom.* : ipso *5*. *Macnaghten's punctuation.*

^a The Isthmian games were held in honour of the child Palaemon, son of Ino, those at Nemea in honour of Opheltēs (Archemorus), for whom see *Thebaid* iv. (end), v. and vi. (init.).

^b Now Monte Barbaro in Campania ; its wines were famous ; Icarus was a son of Oebalus, king of Sparta, and 152

place ; a luckier infant here makes sacrifice.^a The very Nymphs of the green waters leap forth unbidden from their pumice caves ; they cling to the streaming rocks nor think shame to gaze unseen on the naked wrestlers. Gaurus^b too beholds them with its grove of Icarian vines, and the wood that crowns the peak of Nesis set fast in ocean, and calm Limon and Euploea of good omen for ships and the Lucrine Venus^c ; thou too, Misenus, from thy Phrygian height shalt learn the Grecian trumpet-calls, while Parthenope smiles with kindly heart upon the ceremonies of her race and the naked bouts of youths and the humble garlands that imitate her own

Come now thyself, and graciously deign to honour the feats of thine own festival with thy invincible might : whether it please thee to cleave the clouds with the discus, or with thy shaft to outstrip the speedy Zephyrs, or to lock fast thy arms in a Libyan wrestle,^d grant our rites this boon, and, if thou hast still the apples of the Hesperides, place them in the lap of venerable Polla ; for she is worthy to take them, and will not dishonour so great a gift. Nay, might she but recover the charm and beauty of her youth—forgive me, Alcides—perchance for her^e thou hadst even spun the wool.

Such is the offering I have brought in joyful revelry to the new-born shrine. Lo ! now he himself upon the threshold—I see him opening his mouth and speaking : “ A blessing on thy spirit and thy father of Penelope ; he was taught the use of the vine by Bacchus. ”

^c A temple of Venus near Baiae.

^d The reference is to Hercules' bout with Antaeus, the Libyan giant ; this leads to the mention of the apples of the Hesperides.

^e As he did for Omphale, the Lydian princess.

STATIUS

“ macte animis opibusque meos imitate labores,
qui rigidas rupes infecundaeque pudenda
naturae deserta domas et vertis in usum
lustra habitata feris foedaeque latentia profers
numina. quae tibi nunc meritorum praemia solvam ?
quas referam grates ? Parcarum fila tenebo 171
extendamque colus—duram scio vincere Mortem—,
avertam luctus et tristia damna vetabo
teque nihil laesum viridi renovabo senecta
concedamque diu iuvenes spectare nepotes, 175
donec et hic sponsae maturus et illa marito,
rursus et ex illis soboles nova grexque protervus
nunc umeris inreptet avi, nunc agmine blando
certatim placidae concurrat ad oscula Pollae.
nam templis numquam statuatur terminus aevi, 180
dum me flammigeri portabit machina caeli.
nec mihi plus Nemeae priscumque habitabitur Argos
nec Tiburna domus solisque cubilia Gades.”
sic ait ; et tangens surgentem altaribus ignem
populeaque movens albertia tempora silva 185
et Styga et aetherii iuravit fulmina patris.

II

PROPEMPTICON MAECIO CELERI

Di, quibus audaces amor est servare carinas

^a A different meaning in l. 4. 64 ; here the threads are to be stretched out and made longer.

^b Strabo mentions a shrine of Hercules at Gades.

wealth, wherewith thou hast imitated my own labours, who canst tame the rugged rocks and the abhorred wastes of barren nature, and turnest to thy use the wild beasts' lairs, and bringest forth my godhead from shameful hiding! What reward shall I now give thee for thy merits? How show my gratitude? I will hold fast the threads of the Fates and stretch out the wool upon their distaffs ^a—I can subdue remorseless Death—I will bid sorrow flee and suffer not sad loss to harm thee, and I will renew thee in a green old age untouched by time, and grant thee long to behold thy growing grandchildren, until the one is ripe for a bride and the other for a husband, and from them a new progeny springs, and a merry band now clambers about their grandsire's shoulders, now run in eager and loving rivalry for the kisses of tranquil Polla. To this shrine shall no term of age be set, so long as the fabric of the flaming sky shall carry me. Not in Nemea or ancient Argos shall I more often dwell, or in my home at Tibur or in Gades,^b resting-place of the sun." So he speaks, and touching the fire that rose upon the altar and nodding his temples white with poplar-leaves he swore by Styx and by the thunderbolt of his ethereal sire.

II. A SEND-OFF POEM TO MAECIUS CELER

The Propempticon or valedictory poem seems to have been one of the regular types of poem for which rules were laid down in the schools of rhetoric; Horace, C. 1. 3, Epod. 1, Tibullus, 1. 3, may be called Propemptica, cf. also the song in Theocritus, Id. 7. Nothing more is known of Maecius, except that he was consul suffectus in 101.

Ye Gods whose delight it is to preserve adventurous

STATIUS

saevaque ventosi mulcere pericula ponti,
 sternite molle fretum placidumque advertite votis
 concilium, et lenis non obstrepat unda precanti :
 " grande tuo rarumque damus, Neptune, profundo 5
 depositum. iuvenis dubio committitur alto
 Maecius atque animae partem super aequora nostrae
 maiorem transferre parat. proferte benigna
 sidera et antemnae gemino considite cornu,
 Oebali fratres ; vobis pontusque polusque 10
 luceat ; Iliacae longe nimbose sororis
 astra fugate, precor, totoque excludite caelo.
 vos quoque caeruleum ponti, Nereides, agmen,
 quis honor et regni cessit fortuna secundi
 —dicere quae¹ magni fas sit mihi sidera ponti—, 15
 surgite de vitreis spumosa Doridos antris
 Baianosque sinus et feta tepentibus undis
 litora tranquillo certatim ambite natatu,
 quaerentes ubi celsa ratis, quam scandere gaudet
 nobilis Ausoniae Celer armipotentis alumnus. 20
 nec quaerenda diu ; modo nam trans aequora terris
 prima Dicarcheis Pharium gravis intulit annum,
 prima salutavit Capreas et margine dextro
 sparsit Tyrrhenae Mareotica vina Minervae.
 huius utrumque latus molli praecingite gyro, 25
 partitaeque vices vos stuppea tendite mali
 vincula, vos summis adnectite sipara velis,
 vos zephyris aperite sinus ; pars transtra reponat,

¹ quae *M* : quas *Heinsius*.

^a Spartan, from Oebalus, king of Sparta ; *i.e.*, Castor and Pollux.

^b The star of Helen was considered dangerous to ships, *cf. Theb.* vii. 792.

ships, and to assuage the angry perils of the gusty sea, make the waters smooth and calm, and listen in peaceful council to my entreaties, and let the waves be gentle nor make uproar as I pray : " Great and rare, O Neptune, is the pledge I commit unto thy deep ; young Maecius is entrusted to the doubtful main, and is about to take across the seas the dearer half of my soul. Bring forth your favouring stars, Oebalian^a brethren, and sit upon the twin horns of the yard-arm ; let your light illumine sea and sky ; drive far away, I pray, your Ilian sister's tempestuous star,^b and banish her wholly from the heavens. And ye too, Nereids, sea-blue horde of ocean, to whom the glory and the fortune of the second realm have fallen by lot—suffer me to call you stars of the mighty deep !—arise from the glassy caverns of foam-encompassed Doris, and in peaceful rivalry swim round the bays of Baiae and the shores where the hot springs abound ;^c seek out the lofty ship whereon Celer, noble offspring of Ausonia mighty in arms, rejoices to embark. Nor need ye long inquire, for lately came she across the seas, the first of her convoy, to the Dicarchean strand, laden with the Pharian^d harvest, and first was she to salute Capreae, and over her starboard side to pour libation of Mareotic wine to Tyrrhene Minerva.^e Circle gracefully about her on either side, and divide your duties : some stretch taut from the mast the hempen rigging, some set the topsails and spread the canvas to the Zephyrs ; let others place the benches, or let down into the water

^c The reference is to the warm springs of Baiae, *cf.* iii. 5. 96. v. 3. 170.

^d *i.e.*, of Egypt, so also " Mareotic."

^e *Cf.* note on ii. 2. 2.

STATIUS

pars demittat aquis curvae moderamina puppis ;
 sint quibus exploret¹ plumbo gravis alta molybdus,² 30
 quaeque secuturam religent post terga phaselon
 uncaque summersae penitus retinacula vellant ;
 temperet haec aestus pelagusque inclinet ad ortus :
 officio careat glaucarum nulla sororum.
 hinc multo Proteus geminoque hunc corpore Triton 35
 praenatet, et subitis qui perdidit inguina monstribus
 Glaucus adhuc patris quotiens adlabitur oris
 litoream blanda feriens Anthedona cauda.
 tu tamen ante omnes, diva cum matre Palaemon,
 annue, si vestras amor est mihi pandere Thebas, 40
 nec cano degeneri Phoebeum Amphiona plectro.
 et pater, Aeolio frangit qui carcere ventos,
 cui varii flatus omnisque per aequora mundi
 spiritus atque hiemes nimbosaeque nubila parent,
 artius obiecto Borean Eurumque Notumque 45
 monte premat : soli Zephyro sit copia caeli,
 solus agat puppes summasque supernatet undas
 assiduus pelago ; donec tua turbine nullo
 laeta³ Paraetonius adsignet carbasa ripis.”

Audimur. vocat ipse ratem nautasque morantes 50
 increpat. ecce meum timido iam frigore pectus
 labitur et nequeo, quamvis monet ominis horror,
 claudere suspensos oculorum in margine fletus.
 iamque ratem terris divisit fune soluto

¹ exploret *Dom.* : explorent *M.*

² plumbo gravis alta molybdus *Turnebus* : primos gravis arte molorchos *M.* *The emendations of this line are numerous, but none satisfactory* : primos gravius artemo lembos *Vollmer* : plenos gravis artemo lintres, primos gravia arma ceruchos *are various suggestions.*

³ laeta *M.* : laesa *Heinsius.*

the rudder that guides the curving bark ; let there be some to make the heavy sounding-lead explore the depths, and others to fasten the skiff that will follow astern, and to dive down and drag the hooked anchor from the depths, and one to control the tides and make the sea flow eastward : let none of the sea-green sisterhood be without a task. Then let Proteus of manifold shape and twy-formed Triton swim before, and Glaucus ^a whose loins vanished by sudden enchantment, and who, so oft as he glides up to his native shores, wistfully beats his fish-tail on Anthedon's strand. But above all others thou, Palaemon, with thy goddess mother, be favourable, if 'tis thy desire that I should tell of thine own Thebes, and sing of Amphion, bard of Phoebus, with no unworthy quill. And may the father whose Aeolian prison constrains the winds, whom the various blasts obey, and every air that stirs on the world's seas, and storms and cloudy tempests, keep the North wind and South and East in closer custody behind his wall of mountain ; but may Zephyr alone have the freedom of the sky, alone drive vessels onward and skim unceasingly o'er the crests of the billows, until he bring without a storm thy glad sails safe to the Paraetonian ^b haven."

My prayer is heard. The West wind himself calls the ship and chides the laggard crew. Lo ! already my heart sinks, chilled with fear, and I cannot, though the omen shocks me, hold back the tears that hover upon my eyelids' verge. And already the sailor has loosed the rope and sundered the vessel

^a See Ovid, *Met.* xiii. 906 *sqq.*

^b Egyptian, from Paraetonium, a town on the Libyan coast.

STATIUS

navita et angustum deiecit in aequora pontem. 55
 saevus et e puppi longo clamore magister
 dissipat amplexus atque oscula fida revellit,
 nec longum cara licet in cervice morari
 attamen in terras e plebe novissimus omni
 ibo nec egrediar nisi iam cedente carina.¹ 60

Quis rude et abscissum miseris animantibus aequor
 fecit iter solidaeque pios telluris alumnos
 expulit in fluctus pelagoque immisit hianti
 audax ingeni ? nec enim temeraria virtus
 illa magis, summae gelidum quae Pelion Ossae 65
 iunxit anhelantemque iugis bis pressit Olympum.
 usque adeone parum lentas transire paludes
 stagnaque et angustos summittere pontibus amnes ?
 imus in abruptum gentilesque undique terras
 fugimus exigua clausi trabe et aere nudo. 70
 inde furor ventis indignataeque procellae
 et caeli fremitus et fulmina plura Tonanti.
 ante rates pigro torpebant aequora somno,
 nec spumare Thetis nec spargere nubila fluctus
 audebant visis tumuerunt puppibus undae, 75
 inque hominem surrexit hiems. tunc nubila Plias
 Olenumque pecus, solito tunc peior Orion.
 iusta queror ; fugit ecce vagas ratis acta per undas
 paulatim minor et longe servantia vincit
 lumina tot gracili ligno complexa timores, 80
 quaeque super reliquos te, nostri pignus amoris,
 portatura, Celer. quo nunc ego pectore somnos
 quove² queam perferre dies ? quis cuncta paventi

¹ iam cedente carina *Dom.* : iam carina *M.*

² quo . . . quove *Skutsch* : quos . . . quosve *M.*

^a The star called Capella, see note on l. 3. 96. Its rising denoted the beginning of stormy weather.

from the land, and dropped the narrow gangway into the water. On the stern the ruthless master with long-drawn shout severs our embraces and parts loving lips, nor may one linger long upon the dear one's breast. Yet last of all will I be to go on land, nor will I leave the ship until she is already under way.

Who made of the strange and sundered sea a highway for miserable men, and cast forth upon the waves the loyal children of the solid earth and hurled them into the jaws of ocean—daring of spirit? for not more adventurous was the valour that joined frozen Pelion to Ossa's summit, and crushed panting Olympus beneath two mountains. So small a feat was it to traverse sluggish lakes and meres and fling bridges across the narrowed streams? Forth we go into sheer void, and are fled from the native lands about us, enclosed in nought but a few planks and the empty air. Therefore do the winds and angry tempests rage, the sky thunders and many a bolt is sped from the hand of Jove. Before ships were, the waters lay in a slumbrous calm, Thetis dared not foam nor the waves assault the clouds. But when they spied vessels, the billows swelled with rage, and the hurricane arose against man. Then the Pleiads and the Olean goat^a grew dark with storm, and Orion was more wrathful than his wont. Not in vain is my complaint: lo! speeding over the pathless waters flies the ship, lessening by degrees and baffling the eyes that view her from afar; how many fears does she hold within her slender timbers! thee above all must she bear onward, Celer, object of my love! With what feelings can I endure night's slumbers or the day? Who will tell me, a prey to

STATIUS

nuntius, an facili te praetermiserit unda
 Lucani rabida ora maris, num torta Charybdis 85
 fluctuet aut Siculi populatrix virgo profundi,
 quos tibi currenti praeceps gerat Hadria mores,
 quae pax Carpathio, quali te subvehat aura
 Doris Agenorei furtis blandita iuveni?
 sed merui questus. quid enim te castra petente 90
 non vel ad ignotos ibam comes impiger Indos
 Cimmeriumque chaos? starem prope bellica regis
 signa mei, seu tela manu seu frena teneres,
 armatis seu iura dares; operumque tuorum
 etsi non socius, certe mirator adessem. 95
 si quondam magno Phoenix reverendus Achilli
 litus ad Iliacum Thymbraeaeque Pergama venit
 imbellis tumidoque nihil iuratus Atridae,
 cur nobis ignavus amor? sed pectore fido
 numquam abero longisque sequar tua carbasa votis.
 Isi, Phoroneis olim stabulata sub antris, 101
 nunc regina Phari numenque orientis anhelis,
 excipe multisono puppem Mareotida sistro,
 ac iuvenem egregium, Latius cui ductor Eoa
 signa Palaestinasque dedit frenare cohortes, 105
 ipsa manu placida per limina festa sacrosque
 duc portus urbesque tuas. te praeside noscat,
 unde paludosi fecunda licentia Nili,
 cur vada desidant et ripa coerceat undas

^a *i.e.*, Scylla.

^b *i.e.*, the sea between Crete and the Phoenician coast, over which travelled the bull that carried off Europa, daughter of Agenor, king of Phoenicia.

^c The regions to the north of the Euxine, whence the name Crimea.

^d The sistrum was a sort of rattle much used in the worship of Isis, here identified with Io, whom Hera out of jealousy

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every terror, whether the raging coast of the Lucanian sea has sped thee by on favouring waves, whether eddying Charybdis be heaving or the maid that ravages the Sicilian deep,^a how the furious Adriatic aids thy course, whether the Carpathian be at peace, and with what breeze the sea-nymph be wafting thee, that once smiled on the cunning of the Tyrian bull? ^b But I have deserved to mourn: for why, when thou wert bound for the wars, went I not with thee, an unwearied traveller, to unknown India and Cimmerian gloom? ^c By my patron's warlike banner had I been standing, were it weapon or bridle thou wert holding, or whether thou wert giving laws to armed peoples, present if not to share, at least to admire thy deeds. If Phoenix whom great Achilles honoured came long ago to the Ilian shore and Thymbraean Troy, though not a warrior nor bound by oath to proud Atrides, why is my affection cowardly? But my loyal thoughts shall be ever with thee, and my prayers shall follow thy sails to distant lands.

Isis, once stalled in Phoroneus' caves, now queen of Pharos and a deity of the breathless East, welcome with sound of many a sistrum ^d the Mareotic bark, and gently with thine own hand lead the peerless youth, on whom the Latian prince hath bestowed the standards of the East and the bridling of the cohorts of Palestine,^e through festal gate and sacred haven and the cities of thy land. Under thy protection may he learn whence comes the fruitful licence of marshy Nile, why the waters abate and are hemmed within the banks that the Cecropian bird has coated

turned into a heifer. Phoroneus was a former king of Argos.

^e *i.e.*, a command on the Syrian front.

STATIUS

Cecropio stagnata luto, cur invida Memphis, 110
 curve Therapnaei lasciviat ora Canopi,
 cur servet Pharias Lethaeus ianitor aras,
 vilia cur magnos aequent animalia divos ;
 quae sibi praesternat vivax altaria Phoenix,
 quos dignetur agros aut quo se gurgite Nili 115
 mergat adoratus trepidis pastoribus Apis.
 duc et ad Emathios manes, ubi belliger urbis
 conditor Hyblaeo perfusus nectare durat,
 anguiferamque domum, blando qua mersa veneno¹
 Actias Ausonias fugit Cleopatra catenas. 120
 usque et in Assyrias sedes mandataque castra
 proseguere et Marti iuvenem, dea, trade Latino.
 nec novus hospes erit : puer his sudavit in arvis
 notus adhuc tantum maioris lumine² clavi,
 iam tamen et turmas facili praevertere gyro 125
 fortis et Eoas iaculo damnare sagittas.

Ergo erit illa dies, qua te maiora daturus

¹ qua mersa veneno *5* : quaquam m. v. *M*, morsa *Heinsius*.

² lumine *Nohl* : numine *M* : munere *5*.

^a Pliny, *N.H.* x. 94, in speaking of swallows says that their nests prevent the Nile from overflowing for the extent of about a furlong : "in Aegypti Heracleotico ostio molem continuatione nidorum evaganti Nilo inexpugnabilem opponunt," etc., and "insula sacra Isidi, quam ne laceret amnis, muniunt opere, palea et stramento rostrum eius firmantes," "on the Heracleotic mouth of the Nile they oppose an unshakable barrier to the river-floods," and "an island sacred to Isis, which they fortify by their labour, lest the river hurt it, strengthening its headland with litter and straw." Cecropian, *i.e.* Athenian, from Procne, daughter of Pandion, king of Athens, turned into a swallow.

^b "invida," perhaps to be explained by Juv. xv. 33, "inter finitimos vetus atque antiqua simulas," "neighbours' quarrel." Note the etymology again, Memphis from μέμφεσθαι to blame!

with clay,^a why Memphis is jealous,^b why the shore of Therapnean Canopus^c makes wanton revel, why the warden of Lethe^d guards the Pharian shrines, why vile beasts are held equal to mighty gods;^e what altars the long-lived Phoenix prepares for his own death, what fields Apis,^f adored by trembling shepherds, deigns to graze, and in what waters of Nile he bathes. Lead him also to the Emathian tomb,^g where steeped in nectar of Hybla abides the warrior founder of the city, and to the serpent-haunted palace where, sunk in lulling poison, Cleopatra of Actian story escaped Ausonian chains. Escort the youth even to his Assyrian station and the appointed camp, O goddess, and deliver him to the Roman god of war. No stranger will he be there; as a boy he laboured in those fields, known as yet only by his gleaming laticlave,^h though already strong to outstrip the squadrons in nimble wheeling flight, and with his javelin to discredit the arrows of the East.ⁱ

Therefore that day will come when Caesar, to give

^a A luxurious bathing-resort: "Therapnaean," from Therapnae in Laconia, because Canopus, helmsman of Menelaus, king of Sparta, was buried there.

^d Probably Anubis is here identified with Cerberus.

^e e.g. ibis, crocodile, cat, dog, snake, and others, see Herod. ii. 65; Cic. *Tusc. Disp.* v. 27.

^f The sacred ox, called Epaphus by the Greeks, the son of Io by Zeus, worshipped by the Egyptians, see Herod. iii. 27.

^g i.e., of Alexander the Great at Alexandria.

^h Maecius would have worn the "tunica laticlavia" as a young son of a noble family; it was a tunic with a broad purple band inwoven, extending from the neck down across the chest. (The angusticlave was a tunic with two narrow purple stripes in place of the one broad one.)

ⁱ i.e., he could hurl his javelin farther than the flight of an arrow; for their relative ranges see *Theb.* vi. 354 n.

STATIUS

Caesar ab emerito iubeat discedere bello,
 at nos hoc iterum stantes in litore vastos
 cernemus fluctus aliasque rogabimus auras. 130
 o tum quantus ego aut quanta votiva movebo
 plectra lyra ! cum me magna cervice ligatum
 attolles umeris atque in mea pectora primum
 incumbes e puppe novus servataque reddes
 colloquia inque vicem medios narrabimus annos, 135
 tu rapidum Euphraten et regia Bactra sacrasque
 antiquae Babylonis opes et Zeugma, Latinae
 pacis iter, quam¹ dulce nemus florentis Idymes,
 quo pretiosa Tyros rubeat, quo² purpura suco
 Sidoniis iterata cadis,³ ubi germine primum 140
 candida felices sudent opobalsama virgae :
 ast ego, devictis dederim quae busta Pelasgis
 quaeve laboratas claudat mihi pagina Thebas.

III

CONSOLATIO AD CLAUDIUM ETRUSCUM

Summa deum, Pietas, cuius gratissima caelo
 rara profanatas inspectant numina terras,

¹ quam *Baehrens* : qua *M.*

² quo . . . quo *Gronovius* : qua . . . qua *M.*

³ cadis *Gronovius* : vadis *M.*

^a Where the Euphrates was usually crossed by the Roman armies. "Zeugma" means a "joining," "yoking." "pacis," because their object was to maintain the "pax Romana."

^b "iterata," usually known as the "dibapha" (twice dipped), described by Pliny, *N.H.* xxi. 45.

^c Burial of the Pelasgi (= Argives), see *Theb.* xii. 105 ; the last line seems to point to some perplexity on Statius's part as to how he would bring his epic to a close.

^d Duty is addressed as though identified with Astraea, as again v. 2. 92, 3. 89 ; cf. *Theb.* xi. 457.

thee a nobler prize, shall bid thee return from the warfare thou hast ended, and I standing again upon this shore shall view the mighty waves and pray for other breezes. How proud then shall I be! How bravely shall I sound my votive lyre! when you lift me to your shoulders and I cling about your stalwart neck, and you, fresh from the ship, fall first upon my breast, and give me all your stored-up converse, and in turn we tell the story of the years between, you of rapid Euphrates and royal Bactra and the sacred wealth of ancient Babylon, and of Zeugma,^a the way of the Peace of Rome; how sweet is Idume's luxuriant grove, with what dye costly Tyre glows scarlet, and the purple, twice plunged in Sidonian vats,^b is stained, where the fruitful sprays first exude the shining spikenard from the bud: while I relate what burial I have granted to the conquered Pelasgians, and rehearse the page that closes the laboured tale of Thebes.^c

III. A POEM OF CONSOLATION TO CLAUDIUS ETRUSCUS

In this Epicedion Statius has given the chief place to the story of the dead man's career, more in the manner of a "laudatio"; the opening is also varied, cf. on ii. 6. Claudius Etruscus, the father of the man whom Statius is addressing in this poem, was born a slave at Smyrna, but rapidly rose from post to post in the Imperial household till he finally became Secretary of Finances under Nero; he was made a Knight by Vespasian, and after a brief disgrace under Domitian died at about the age of 90. His wife was of noble birth. Martial wrote a poem on the same occasion (vii. 40).

Duty,^d most high among gods, whose heaven-favoured deity rarely beholds the guilty earth, come

STATIUS

huc vittata comam niveoque insignis amictu,
 qualis adhuc praesens nullaque expulsa nocentum
 fraude rudes populos atque aurea regna colebas, 5
 mitibus exsequiis ades et lugentis Etrusci
 cerne pios fletus laudataque lumina terge.
 nam quis inexpleto rumpentem pectora questu
 complexumque rogos incumbentemque favillis
 aspiciens non aut primaevae funera plangi 10
 coniugis aut nati modo pubescentia credat
 ora rapi flammis? pater est, qui fletur. adeste
 dique hominesque sacris. procul hinc, procul ite
 nocentes,
 si cui corde nefas tacitum fessique senectus
 longa patris, si quis pulsatae conscius umquam¹ 15
 matris et inferna rigidum timet Aeaecon urna:
 insontes castosque voco. tenet ecce seniles
 leniter implicitos vultus sanctamque parentis
 canitiem spargit lacrimis animaeque supremum
 frigus amat; celeres genitoris filius annos 20
 —mira fides!—nigrasque putat properasse sorores.
 exsultent placidi Lethaea ad flumina manes,
 Elysiae gaudete domus; date sorta per aras
 festaque pallentes hilarent altaria lucos.
 felix, haec,² nimium felix plorataque nato 25
 umbra venit. longe Furiarum sibila, longe
 tergeminus custos, penitus via longa pateat
 manibus egregiis. eat horrendumque silentis
 accedat domini solium gratesque supremas
 perferat et totidem iuveni roget anxius annos. 30

¹ unquam *M*: anguem *Postgate*.

² haec *Slater*: et *M*: a, heu, o, en *edd*.

^a Cerberus.

hither with fillets on thy hair and adorned with snow-white robe, as when still a present goddess, before the violence of sinful men had driven thee away, thou didst dwell among innocent folk in a reign of gold ; come to these quiet obsequies, and look upon the duteous tears of sorrowing Etruscus, and brush them from his eyes with words of praise. For who that saw him bursting his heart with unsatisfied lament and embracing the pyre and bending o'er the ashes would not think that it was a young wife whose death he mourned, or a son whose face just growing into manhood the flames were devouring ? But it is a father whom he weeps. Come, gods and men, to the holy rites. Begone, begone, ye wicked, all in whose hearts is a crime unspoken, any who deems his aged sire has lived too long, or, conscious of ever having struck his mother, fears the urn of unbending Aeacus in the world below : 'tis the pure and guiltless I invite. Lo ! gently in his arms he holds the aged face and lets his tears bedew the sacred white hairs of his sire, and lovingly gathers the last cold breath ; marvellous, yet true ! a son is thinking that his father's life is swiftly flown, that the black Sisters have brought the end too soon. Exult, ye placid ghosts by the streams of Lethe, rejoice, Elysian abodes ! enwreathe the shrines, and let festal altars gladden the pale groves. 'Tis a happy shade that is coming, ay, too happy, for his son laments him. Avaunt, ye hissing Furies, avaunt the threefold guardian ^a ! let the long road lie clear for peerless spirits. Let him come, and approach the awful throne of the silent monarch and pay his last due of gratitude and anxiously request for his son as long a life.

STATIUS

Macte pio gemitu ! dabimus solacia dignis
 luctibus Aoniasque tuo sacrabimus ultro
 inferias, Etrusce, sem ! tu largus Eoa
 germina, tu messes Cilicumque Arabumque superbas
 merge rogis ; ferat ignis opes heredis et alto 35
 aggere missuri nitido pia nubila caelo
 stipentur cineres : nos non arsura feremus
 munera, venturosque tuus durabit in annos
 me monstrante dolor. neque enim mihi flere parentem
 ignotum, similis gemui proiectus ad ignem. 40
 ille mihi tua damna dies compescere cantu
 suadet : et ipse tuli quos nunc tibi confero questus.

Non tibi clara quidem, senior placidissime, gentis
 linea nec proavis demissum stemma, sed ingens
 supplevit fortuna genus culpamque parentum 45
 occuluit. nec enim dominos de plebe tulisti,
 sed quibus occasus pariter famulantur et ortus.
 nec pudor iste tibi : quid enim terrisque poloque
 parendi sine lege manet ? vice cuncta reguntur¹
 alternisque premunt. propriis sub regibus omnis 50
 terra ; premit felix regum diademata Roma ;
 hanc ducibus frenare datum ; mox crescit in illos
 imperium superis. sed habent et numina legem :
 servit et astrorum velox chorus et vaga servit
 luna nec iniussae totiens redit orbita lucis, 55
 et—modo si fas est aequare iacentia summis—

¹ reguntur *Gevart* : geruntur *M*.

^a Statius now addresses the father. At l. 85 he again
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A blessing on thy pious moans ! I will bring solace for a grief so worthy, and unbidden pay thy sire, Etruscus, an offering of song. Do thou with lavish hand plunge Eastern incense in the flames, and the proud harvests of Cilicia and Araby ; let the fire consume thy heritage of wealth ; heap high the burning mass that shall waft duteous clouds to the bright sky. My gift is not for burning, but my record of thy grief shall endure through the years to come. For I too know what it is to mourn a father ; I too have groaned prostrate before the pyre. That day bids me assuage thy loss by song ; the lament I offer thee now was once my own.

No brilliant lineage indeed was thine,^a serene old man, no descent traced down from distant ancestors, but high fortune made good thy birth and hid the blemish of thy parentage. For thy masters were not of common stock, but those to whom East and West are alike in thrall. No shame is that servitude to thee ;^b for what in heaven and earth remains unbound by the law of obedience ? All things in turn are ruled and in turn hold sway. To its own monarch every land is subject : fortunate Rome lords it o'er monarchs' crowns : 'tis her rulers' duty to bridle Rome : o'er these in turn rises the sovereignty of heaven. But even deities have their laws : in thralldom is the swift choir of the stars, in thralldom is the wandering moon, not unbidden is the light whose path so oft returns. And, if only it be not a sin to compare the lowly with the highest, the

speaks of him in the 3rd person, but returns to the 2nd person at l. 106.

^b More familiar parallels to this idea are Soph. *Ajax*, 669 ff. and Hor. *Od.* iii. 1. 5.

STATIUS

pertulit et saevi Tirynthius horrida regis
pacta, nec erubuit famulantis fistula Phoebi.

Sed neque barbaricis Latio transmissus ab oris :
Smyrna tibi gentile solum potusque verendo 60
fonte Meles Hermique vadum, quo Lydius intrat
Bacchus et aurato reficit sua cornua limo.
laeta dehinc series variisque ex ordine curis
auctus honos; semperque gradi prope numina, semper
Caesareum coluisse latus sacrisque deorum 65
arcanis haerere datum. Tibereia primum
aula tibi vixdum ora nova mutante iuventa
panditur—hic annis multa super indole victis
libertas oblata venit—nec proximus heres,
immitis quamquam et Furiis agitatus, abegit. 70
huic¹ et in Arctoas tenuis comes usque pruinas
terribilem adfatu passus visuque tyrannum
immanemque suis, ut qui metuenda ferarum
corda domant mersasque iubent iam sanguine tacto
reddere ab ore manus et nulla vivere praeda. 75
praecipuos sed enim merito surrexit² in actus
nondum stelligerum senior dimissus in axem
Claudius et longo³ transmittit habere nepoti.

¹ huic *Pol.* : hinc *M.* : hunc *Aldine*.

² surrexit *M.* : subvexit *Pol.* (*but cf. Theb.* ii. 27).

³ longo *M.* : longum *Gervart.*

^a Hercules served King Eurystheus of Argos, Apollo was shepherd (hence "fistula") to Admetus, king of Thessaly.

^b Because Homer was born on its banks.

^c The Dionysus of the Indian legends has a bull's horns; the same Oriental figure appears in *Theb.* iv. 389, "Hermi de fontibus aureus exis."

^d "latus" is often used in this sense; *cf.* the Papal legate "a latere."

^e Caligula. The next line seems to be a reference to the

Tirynthian also performed his dread covenant with the cruel king, nor did bondage shame the pipe of Phoebus.^a

But neither wert thou sent to Latium from barbarous shores : Smyrna was thy native soil, and thou didst drink the honoured ^b springs of Meles and of Hermus' stream, where Lydian Bacchus bathes and tricks his horns anew in the golden silt.^c Thereafter a prosperous career was thine, and divers offices in due succession increased thy dignity : it was thy privilege ever to walk near divinities, ever to be close to Caesar's person ^d and to share the holy secrets of the gods. The palace of Tiberius first was opened to thee while early manhood scarce changed as yet thy boyish countenance ; here—since thy varied gifts surpassed thy years—freedom came to thee unsought ; nor did the next heir,^e though fierce and Fury-haunted, banish thee. In his train didst thou go, frail as thou wert, even to the frozen North, and endure the tyrant terrible in word and look and cruel to his subjects, as those who tame the dread rage of beasts and command them, though they have tasted blood, to let go the hand thrust down their jaws, and to live without need of prey. But Claudius for thy merit raised thee to highest office in his old age,^f ere he was summoned to the starry vault, and gave thee over to the keeping of his nephew's late-born expedition to Britain, which ended so ridiculously (Suet. *Cal.* 46).

^f This seems the most satisfactory meaning that can be got for "longo" ; others are "long-reigning," for which "longus exul" of *Theb.* ii. 114, is not a very good parallel, and "the long series of descendants," which could only refer to the Flavians. Nero succeeded at the age of seventeen. He was the son of Claudius's niece Agrippina.

quis superos metuens pariter tot templa, tot aras
promeruisse datur? summi Iovis aliger Arcas 80
nuntius; imbrifera potitur Thaumantide Iuno;
stat celer obsequio iussa ad Neptunia Triton:
tu totiens mutata ducum iuga rite tulisti
integer, inque omni felix tua cumba profundo.

Iamque piam lux alta domum praecelsaque toto 85
intravit Fortuna gradu; iam creditur uni
sanctarum digestus opum partaeque per omnis
divitiae populos magnique impendia mundi.
quicquid ab auriferis eiectat Hiberia fossis,
Dalmatico quod monte nitet, quod messibus Afris 90
verritur, aestiferi quicquid terit area Nil,
quodque legit mersus pelagi scrutator Eoi,
et Lacedaemonii pecuaria culta Galaesi
perspicuaeque nives Massylaque robora et Indi
dentis honos: uni parent commissa ministro, 95
quae Boreas quaeque Euris atrox, quae nubilus
Auster

invehit: hibernos citius numeraveris imbres
silvarumque comas. vigil idem animique sagacis¹
et citus² evolvit quantum Romana sub omni
pila die quantumque tribus, quid templa, quid alti 100
undarum cursus, quid propugnacula poscant

¹ vigil idem animique sagacis *Leo*: vigilite animaeque sagacis *M*, variously emended; usque, iste, ipse *edd.*, vigili tu animoque sagaci *Peyrared* (evolvis 99) etc.

² et citus *Salmasius*: exitus *M*: anxius *Hirschfeld*.

^a Mercury and Iris.

^b See Pliny, *N.H.* xxxiii. 78, for the mines of Spain; the gold-mines of Dalmatia are also mentioned iv. 7. 13; cf. also the simile in *Theb.* vi. 880. Since Tiberius mining rights were vested in the Emperor. The Imperial fiscus also derived income from African wheat, from pearl-fisheries,
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son. Who that fears the gods was ever suffered to serve so many temples, so many altars? The winged Arcadian is the messenger of supreme Jove; Juno hath power over the rain-bringing Thaumantian;^a Triton, swift to obey, stands ready at Neptune's bidding: thou hast duly borne unharmed the yoke of princes, changed so many times, and thy little boat has weathered every sea.

And now from on high a light illumined his loyal home, and Fortune towering to her loftiest entered apace. Now was entrusted to him alone the controlling of the sacred treasure, wealth drawn from every race, the revenue of the mighty world. All that Iberia hews from out her gold-mines,^b the glittering metal of Dalmatian hills, the produce of African harvests: all that is threshed on the floors of sultry Nile, or gathered by the divers who search the Eastern seas: the tended flocks of Lacedaemonian Galaesus, frozen crystals, Massylian citron-wood, the glory of the Indian tusk: all is committed to his charge and subject to him alone, all that the North wind and fierce East wind and the cloudy South bring with them; sooner would you count the winter rains or forest leaves. Watchful too is he and shrewd of mind, and quick to reckon what the Roman arms beneath every sky demand, how much the tribes^c and the temples, how much the lofty aque-

and considerable wealth from Egypt, which was the Emperor's own domain.

^a "tribus," probably the supplies of free corn, distributed by tribes; "propugn. aeq.," perhaps the care of harbours rather than fortresses; "quod domini," etc., Domitian had recently built a new palace on the Palatine; "quae divum," etc., the general supervision of statues of the Emperors (= "divum"), and of the Mint.

aequoris aut longe series porrecta viarum ;
 quod domini celsis niteat laquearibus aurum,
 quae divum in vultus igni formanda liquescat
 massa, quid Ausoniae scriptum crepet igne Monetae.
 hinc tibi rara quies animoque exclusa voluptas, 106
 exiguaeque dapes et numquam laesa profundo
 cura mero ; sed iura tamen genialia cordi
 et mentem vincere toris ac iungere festa
 conubia et fidos domino genuisse clientes. 110

Quis sublime genus formamque insignis Etruscae
 nesciat ? haud quamquam proprio mihi cognita visu,
 sed decus eximium famae par reddit imago,
 vultibus et similis¹ natorum gratia monstrat.
 nec vulgare genus ; fasces summamque curulem 115
 frater et Ausonios enses mandataque fidus
 signa tulit, cum prima truces amentia Dacos
 impulit et magno gens est damnata triumpho.
 sic quicquid patrio cessatum a sanguine, mater
 reddidit, obscurumque latus clarescere vidit 120
 conubio gavis domus. nec pignora longe ;
 quippe bis ad partus venit Lucina manuque
 ipsa levi gravidos tetigit fecunda labores.
 felix a ! si longa dies, si cernere vultus
 natorum viridesque genas tibi iusta dedissent 125
 stamina ! sed media cecidere abrupta iuventa
 gaudia, florentesque manu scidit Atropos annos ;
 qualia pallentes declinant lilia culmos

¹ vultibus et similis *Phyllimore* : vultibus et sibimet similis
M : et sibimet similis *Skutsch, Krohn*.

^a *i.e.*, the consulship.

^b Domitian triumphed in 85, though without having obtained any real success.

^c The goddess of child-birth, lit. that first brings light to the infant's eyes ; identified with Juno later.

ducts, and the fortresses by the sea, or the far-flung lines of road ; what wealth of gold gleams on the high ceilings of our prince, what weight of ore must be melted in the fire and shaped into the countenance of gods, how much shall ring when stamped in the fiery heat of Ausonia's mint. Therefore hadst thou but scant repose, thy mind took no thought for pleasure, thy feasting was meagre and thy cares never assuaged by plenteous draughts of wine ; yet thou hadst joy in the ties of marriage, in binding thy heart with chains of love, in the union of festal wedlock, and in begetting faithful clients for thy lord.

Who can but know the high birth and loveliness of fair Etrusca ? Never with my own eyes have I beheld her, yet the trusty image of fame reflects her peerless beauty, and a like charm of countenance in her sons reveals it. No common birth was hers ; her brother wielded the rods and the highest curule power,^a and faithfully led Ausonian swordsmen and the standards entrusted to him, when frenzy first inspired the ruthless Dacians, and their race was doomed to afford us a mighty triumph.^b Thus whatsoever was lacking in the father's blood was made good by the mother, and the household rejoicing in the union saw its obscurity turned to brightness. Children too were nigh at hand ; twice was Lucina ^c present at the birth and deftly with fruitful hand eased the pain of travail. Ah ! happy, had length of days and a due measure of years suffered thee to behold the faces of thy children and the bloom of youth upon their cheeks ! but in the midst of thy prime those joys fell shattered, and Atropos roughly tore the thread of flourishing life ; even so do lilies

STATIUS

pubentesque rosae primos moriuntur ad austros,
aut ubi verna novis exspirat purpura pratis. 130
illa sagittiferi circumvolitastis, Amores,
funera maternoque rogos unxistis amomo ;
nec modus aut pennis laceris aut crinibus ignem
spargere, collectaeque pyram struxere pharetrae.
quas tunc inferias aut quae lamenta dedisses 135
maternis, Etrusce, rogis, qui funera patris
haud matura putas atque hos pius ingemis annos !

Illum et qui nutu superas nunc temperat arces,
progeniem claram terris partitus et astris,
laetus Idumaei donavit honore triumphi 140
dignatusque loco victricis et ordine pompae
non vetuit, tennesque nihil minuere parentes.
atque idem in cuneos populo deduxit equestres
mutavitque genus laevaeque ignobile ferrum
exuit et celso natorum aequavit honorem.¹ 145
dextra bis octonis fluxerunt saecula lustris,
atque aevi sine nube tenor. quam dives in usus
natorum totoque volens excedere censu,
testis adhuc largi nitor inde adsuetus Etrusci,
cui tua non humilis dedit indulgentia mores. 150
hunc siquidem amplexu semper revocante tenebas
blandus et imperio numquam pater ; huius honori
pronior ipse etiam gaudebat cedere frater.

Quas tibi devoti iuvenes pro patre renato,
summe ducum, grates, aut quae pia vota rependunt !

¹ celso . . . honorem *Krohn*: celso . . . honore *M*: celse . . . honori *Salmasius*.

^a Vespasian, whose sons were Titus (*d.* 81) and Domitian.

^b Here= Judaeans ; the reference is to the revolt of the Jews that culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus.

^c The gold ring and the fourteen seats above the orchestra were privileges of the Equestrian order.

droop pale heads and roses die at the first South wind, or on fresh meadows the purple flower of spring withers away. Around that funeral train did ye hover, ye arrow-bearing Loves, and anoint the bier with your mother's balm ; freely did ye scatter your torn hair and feathers on the flames, and your quivers were heaped to build the pyre. What offerings, what tears wouldest thou have paid at thy mother's grave, Etruscus, who deemest thy father's death untimely and mournest with true affection for his years !

He who with his nod now sways the heights of heaven,^a and has given of his glorious offspring to earth and sky alike, gladly granted to him the honour of an Idumae^b triumph, and deeming him worthy the distinction and rank that the procession of victory brings forbade it not, nor did obscurity of birth diminish his renown.^c He too led him down to the benches of the knights from among the people, and ennobled him and took off the humble iron ring and made him equal to his sons in lofty eminence. Twice eight lustres of prosperity flowed by, and his life's course was without a cloud. How lavish he was in the service of his sons, how willing to strip himself of all his wealth, the wonted splendour of Etruscus from that day to this bears witness, for it was thy indulgence that gave him his lordly mien. Thou didst clasp him in an embrace that ever called him back to thee, and didst rule by the love and not the sternness of a father ; to him even his brother rejoiced to give way, more anxious for his renown than for his own.

What gratitude, greatest of princes, what loyal vows do these youths, devoted to thy service, pay

STATIUS

tu—seu tarda situ rebusque exhausta senectus 156
 erravit seu blanda diu Fortuna regressum
 maluit—attonitum et venturi fulminis ictus
 horrentem tonitru tantum lenique procella
 contentus monuisse senem ; cumque horrida supra
 aequora curarum socius procul Itala rura 161
 linqueret, hic molles Campani litoris oras
 et Diomedea concedere iussus in arces
 atque hospes, non exsul, erat. nec longa moratus
 Romuleum reseras iterum, Germanice, limen 165
 maerentemque foves inclinosque penates
 erigis. haud mirum, ductor placidissime, quando
 haec est quae victis parcentia foedera Cattis
 quaeque suum Dacis donat clementia montem,
 quae modo Marcomanos post horrida bella vagosque
 Sauromatas Latio non est dignata triumpho. 171

Iamque in fine dies et inexorabile pensus
 deficit. hic maestis pietas me poscit Etrusci,
 qualia nec Siculae moderantur carmina rupes
 nec fati iam certus olor saevique marita 175
 Tereos. heu quantis lassantem brachia vidi
 planctibus et prono fusum super oscula vultu !
 vix famuli comitesque tenent, vix arduus ignis
 summovet. haud aliter gemit per Sunia¹ Theseus
 litora,² qui falsis deceperat Aegea velis. 180
 tunc immane gemens foedatusque ora tepentes

¹ per Sunia *Polster*: periuria *M*: per inania *Bursian*:
 per Ionia *Phillimore*.

² litora *M*: litore *S*, and keep periuria.

^a Diomede was supposed by legend to have come to S. Italy and founded Arpi in Apulia.

^b Campaign against the Chatti, 82, unsuccessful fighting against Dacians and Marcomanni about 88, Sarmatian war, probably successful but no triumph, 92.

thee for their sire's rebirth ! For whether he erred through age, fatigued by decay and exhausted by affairs, or whether Fortune so long favourable now had a mind to leave him, thou wert content, while in shuddering dismay he awaited the coming lightning-stroke, to warn the old man by thunder alone and by a storm that spared him ; and when the partner of his cares left far behind him the fields of Italy and crossed the raging seas, he was bidden retire to Campania's mild coast and the towers of Diomedea,^a a stranger but no exile. Nor didst thou wait long, Germanicus, before thou didst once more unbar the gates of Romulus and console his grief and raise again the stricken house. No wonder, most tranquil prince ; for this is that clemency that gives terms of mercy to the conquered Catti^b and restores their mountain to the Dacians ; that lately though after a fierce struggle deigned not that the Marcomanni and the Sarmatian Nomads should furnish forth a Roman triumph.

And now his day is ended, and the inexorable thread runs out. The sorrowing heart of Etruscus asks me for a dirge, such as even the cliffs of Sicily re-echoed not, nor doomed swan ever sang nor cruel Tereus' bride.^c Ah ! with what violent beating of his breast did I see him wearying his arms, flung prostrate with face bowed down to kiss his sire ! Scarce can his friends and servants hold him, scarce do the towering flames make him withdraw. Not otherwise did Theseus on the Sunian shore mourn Aegeus whom his false sails had deceived. Then fearfully groaning, with disfiguring marks upon his

^c The Sirens, and the nightingale (Philomela, ravished by Tereus) are referred to.

STATIUS

adfatur cineres : " cur nos, fidissime, linquis
 Fortuna redeunte, pater ? modo numina magni
 praesidis atque breves superum placavimus iras,
 nec frueris tantique orbatus muneris usu 185
 ad manes, ingrata, fugis. nec flectere Parcas
 aut placare malae datur aspera numina Lethes ?
 felix, cui magna patrem cervice vehenti
 sacra Mycenaeae patuit reverentia flammae !
 quique tener saevis genitorem Scipio Poenis 190
 abstulit et Lydi pietas temeraria Lausi.
 ergo et Thessalici coniunx pensare mariti
 funus et imitem potuit Styga vincere supplex
 Thracius ? hoc quanto melius pro patre liceret !
 non totus rapiere tamen, nec funera mittam 195
 longius ; hic manes, hic intra tecta tenebo :
 tu custos dominusque laris, tibi cuncta tuorum
 parebunt ; ego rite minor semperque secundus
 assiduas libabo dapes et pocula sacris
 manibus effigiesque colam ; te lucida saxa, 200
 te similem doctae referet mihi linea cerae,
 nunc ebur et fulvum vultus imitabitur aurum.
 inde viam morum longaeque examina vitae
 adfatusque pios monituraque somnia poscam."
 Talia dicentem genitor dulcedine laeta 205
 audit et immites lente descendit ad umbras
 verbaque dilectae fert narraturus Etruscae.
 Salve supremum, senior mitissime patrum,

^a Aeneas who carried his father out of burning Troy :
 Mycenean = kindled by Greeks.

^b At the battle of Ticinus, 218 B.C.

^c Son of Mezentius = Virg. *Aen.* x. 786 *sqq.*

^d Alcestis, wife of Admetus, and Orpheus, husband of Eurydice.

face, he cries to the warm ashes : " Why, truest of fathers, dost thou leave us, when Fortune smiles once more ? Only of late did we assuage the godhead of our mighty prince and the brief anger of the gods, but thou, naught profiting, dost lose the enjoyment of a boon so great, and fleest, ungrateful, to the shades. And is it not granted to move the Fates, or appease the ruthless deities of deadly Lethe ? Happy he, before whom as he carried his father on stalwart shoulders the Grecian flames gave way in reverent awe ^a ! and Scipio too, who while yet a lad rescued his sire from the cruel Carthaginians ^b ; happy also the daring devotion of Lydian Lausus ^c ! Is it so, then, that the Thessalian consort could give her life to save her lord ? that the suppliant Thracian could defeat remorseless Styx ? ^d surely a father's life hath a juster claim ! Yet shalt thou not be wholly taken, nor will I send thy ashes far : here, here within the house will I keep thy shade. Thou art the guardian and master of the hearth, all that is thine shall obey thee ; I will ever, as is right, be second, and hold a lesser place, and to thy sacred shade bring constant offering of meat and drink, and worship thy image ; shining marble and the cunning lines of wax shall repeat thy likeness to me ; now ivory, now tawny gold shall imitate thy features. There in thy long life's story will I seek a guide for conduct, and loving converse and dreams that bring good counsel."

So he spoke, and his father heard him with joy and gladness, and went down slowly to the pitiless shades, bearing the message to tell to his beloved Etrusca.

Hail for the last time, aged sire, gentlest of fathers,

STATIUS

supremumque vale, qui numquam sospite nato
triste chaos maestique situs patiere sepulcri. 210
semper odoratis spirabunt floribus arae,
semper et Assyrios felix bibet urna liquores
et lacrimas, qui maior honos. hic sacra litabit
manibus eque tua tumulum tellure levabit.
nostra quoque exemplo meritis tibi carmina sancit
hoc etiam gaudens cinerem donasse sepulcro. 216

IV. CAPILLI FLAVI EARINI¹

Ite, comae, facilemque precor transcurrere pontum,
ite coronato recubantes molliter auro ;
ite, dabit cursus mitis Cytherea secundos
placabitque notos, fors et de puppe timenda
transferet inque sua ducet super aequora concha. 5
accipe laudatos, iuvenis Phoebeie, crines,
quos tibi Caesareus donat puer, accipe laetus
intonsoque ostende patri. sine dulce nitentes
comparet atque diu fratris putet esse Lyaei.
forsan et ipse comae numquam labentis honorem 10
praemetet atque alio clusum tibi ponet in auro.

Pergame, pinifera multum felicior Ida !

¹ EARINI *Pol.* : IERINI *M.*

^a Asclepius.

and for the last time farewell ! Never while thy son lives shalt thou suffer the despair of Tartarus, or the sorrow of a grave forgotten. Ever shall thy altar exhale the scent of flowers, ever shall thy happy urn drink Assyrian perfumes, and tears, a greater honour. Thy son shall make sacrifice to thy spirit, and from thy own soil raise a monument to thee. My song too, won by his own worth, he dedicates to thee, glad to have given this sepulchre also to thy ashes.

IV. THE TRESSES OF FLAVIUS EARINUS

A poem upon the dedication of the tresses of the Emperor's favourite Earinus ; they were to be sent in a golden box to the temple of Asclepius at Pergamum, his birthplace. The dedication of hair was an ancient Greek custom (cf. Achilles in the Iliad), and should not be confused with the first clipping of the beard, for which see Petronius, 29, Suetonius, Nero, 12, Juvenal, viii. 166. Martial has similar poems, ix. 16, 17, 36.

Speed, ye tresses, and may ocean smile upon your passage ! Speed, while ye softly rest upon the enwreathed gold ! Speed onward, for gentle Venus will give you a fair voyage, and make the South winds tranquil, and perchance will take you from the dangerous bark and convey you over the sea in her own shell. Accept, O son of Phoebus,^a these much-praised locks that Caesar's favourite presents to thee, accept them joyfully and show them to thy unshorn sire. Let him compare their beauteous sheen, and long deem them the tresses of his brother Lyaeus. Perchance too with his own hand he will shear a lock from his hair's unfailing glory, and enclose it for thee in other gold.

Pergamus, more blest by far than pine-clad Ida,

illa licet sacrae placeat sibi nube¹ rapinae
 — nempe dedit superis illum, quem turbida semper
 Iuno videt refugitque manum nectarque recusat —,
 at tu grata deis pulchroque insignis alumno 16
 misisti Latio, placida quem fronte ministrum
 Iuppiter Ausonius pariter Romanaque Iuno
 aspiciunt et uterque probant. nec tanta potenti
 terrarum domino divum sine mente voluptas. 20

Dicitur Idalios Erycis de vertice lucos
 dum petit et molles agitat Venus aurea cygnos,
 Pergameas intrasse domos, ubi maximus aegris
 auxiliator adest et festinantia sistens
 fata salutifero mitis deus incubat angui. 25
 hic puerum egregiae praeclarum sidere formae
 ipsius ante dei ludentem conspicit aras.
 ac primum subita paulum decepta figura
 natorum de plebe putat; sed non erat illi
 arcus et ex umeris nullae fulgentibus umbrae. 30
 miratur puerile decus vultumque comasque
 aspiciens “tune Ausonias” ait “ibis ad arces,
 neglectus Veneri? tu sordida tecta iugumque
 servitii vulgare feres? procul absit: ego isti,
 quem meruit, formae dominum dabo. vade age
 mecum, 35

vade, puer: ducam volucris per sidera curru
 donum immane duci; nec te plebeia manebunt
 iura: Palatino famulus deberis amori.
 nil ego, nil, fateor, toto tam dulce sub orbe
 aut vidi aut genui. cedit tibi Latmius² ultro 40

¹ nube *M*: laude *Markland*: pube *Koestlin*.

² Latmius *Dom.*: lamus *M*.

^a That of Ganymede.

^b Domitian and Domitia.

though she boast the cloud that veiled the heavenly rape ^a ! She verily gave to the gods him on whom Juno ever looks in wrath, and withdraws her hand and refuses the nectar ; but thou, beloved of heaven and famed for thy fair foster-son, hast sent to Latium him whom Ausonian Jove and Roman Juno ^b alike behold with favouring brow and both approve. Nor without the will of heaven was such pleasure vouchsafed to the lord of earth.

Golden Venus, it is said, while on her way from the height of Eryx to the Idalian groves, driving her gentle swans, entered the shrine at Pergamum, where the great helper of the sick is present to aid, and stays the hurrying fates and bends, a kindly deity, o'er his health-bringing snake. Here she espies a lad of wondrous, starlike beauty, playing before the very altars of the god. And at first deceived somewhat by the sudden sight of his fair form she deems him one of her own sons ; but he had no bow nor shade of wings on his bright shoulders. She marvels at his boyish charm, and gazing at his features and his locks, " Shalt thou go," she cries, " to the Ausonian city, neglected by Venus, and endure a mean dwelling and slavery's base yoke ? May that never be ! I myself will find a master worthy of that beauty. Come, lad, come with me ! I will convey thee in my winged chariot through the air, a wondrous present to a monarch. No common servitude awaits thee : to the Palace art thou destined, to be the minister of love. Never, I declare, never the whole world over have I beheld or given birth to aught so fair.^c Straightway will the Latmian

^c Endymion, Attis, Narcissus, and Hylas are referred to in what follows.

STATIUS

Sangariusque puer quemque irrita fontis imago
 et sterilis consumpsit amor. te caerula Nais
 mallet et adpressa traxisset fortius urna.
 tu, puer, ante omnis ; solus formosior ille,
 cui daberis." sic orsa leves secum ipsa per auras 45
 tollit olorinaque rubet considerare biga.
 nec mora. iam Latii montes veterisque penates
 Evandri, quos mole nova pater inclitus orbis
 excolit et summis aequat Germanicus astris.
 tunc propior iam cura deae, quae forma capillis 50
 optima, quae vestis roseos accendere vultus
 apta, quod in digitis, collo quod dignius aurum.
 norat caelestis oculos ducis ipsaque taedas
 iunxerat et plena dederat conubia dextra :
 sic ornat crines, Tyrios sic fundit amictus, 55
 dat radios ignemque suum. cessere priores
 deliciae famulumque greges ; hic pocula magno
 prima duci murrasque graves crystallaque portat
 candidiore manu : crescit nova gratia Baccho.
 Care puer superis, qui praeibare verendum 60
 nectar et ingentem totiens contingere dextram
 electus, quam nosse Getae, quam tangere Persae
 Armenique Indique petunt ! o sidere dextro
 edite, multa tibi divum indulgentia favit !
 olim etiam, ne prima genas lanugo nitentes 65
 carperet et pulchrae fuscaret gratia formae,
 ipse deus patriae celsam trans aequora liquit
 Pergamon. haud ulli puerum mollire potestas

^a *i.e.*, the Palatine, where Domitian had recently built a new palace.

yield to thee, and the Sangarian youth, and he whom the fruitless image in the fountain and barren love consumed. The Nymph of the dark-blue water would have preferred thee, and grasped thy urn and drawn thee down more boldly. Thou, boy, dost surpass them all; only he to whom I shall give thee is more beautiful." So speaking she lifted him with her own hand through the light air, and bade him sit in the swan-drawn chariot. Straightway appeared the Latian hills^a and the home of ancient Evander, which Germanicus, renowned lord of the world, is adorning with new structures and making as glorious as the stars above. Then more anxious grew the goddess, what tiring of the hair best suited him, what raiment was fittest to light up his rosy countenance, what gold was worthiest of his neck or his finger. She knew the Emperor's godlike glance: herself she had joined the torches of wedlock, and with lavish hand bestowed on him his bride. So decks she his hair, so drapes the Tyrian folds about him, and gives him her own radiant fire. The former favourites yield, and the crowds of slaves; 'tis he who bears the first goblet to our great Chief, and the crystal cups and heavy murrhine vessels in hands that are fairer than they; there is a sweeter savour in the wine.

O youth beloved of heaven, who hast been chosen to sip first the sacred nectar, and so oft to touch the mighty hand that the Getae seek to know, and the Persians and Armenians and Indians to kiss! O born under a favouring star, the gods have blest thee with much goodwill! Once, lest the first down should spoil thy radiant cheeks and the charm of thy comeliness be darkened, the god of thy land left his lofty Pergamum and crossed the sea. None else was

STATIUS

credita, sed tacita iuvenis Phoebeius arte
leniter haud ullo concussum vulnere corpus¹ 70
de sexu transire iubet. tamen anxia curis
mordetur puerique timet Cytherea dolores.
nondum pulchra ducis clementia coeperat ortu
intactos servare mares ; nunc frangere sexum
atque hominem mutare nefas, gavisaeque solos 75
quos genuit natura videt, nec lege sinistra
ferre timent famulae natorum pondera matres.

Tu quoque nunc iuvenis, genitus si tardius esses,
umbratusque genas et adultos fortior artus,
non unum gaudens Phoebea ad limina munus 80
misisses ; patrias nunc solus crinis ad oras
naviget. hunc multo Paphie saturabat amomo,
hunc nova tergemina pectebat Gratia dextra ;
huic et purpurei cedit coma saucia Nisi,
et quam Sperchio tumidus servabat Achilles. 85
ipsi, cum primum niveam praecerpere frontem
decretum est umerosque manu nudare nitentes,
adcurrunt teneri Paphia cum matre volucres
expediuntque comas et Serica pectore ponunt
pallia. tunc iunctis crinem incidere sagittis 90
atque auro gemmisque locant, rapit ipsa cadentem
mater et arcanos iterat Cytherea liquores.²
tunc puer e turba, manibus qui forte supinis
nobile gemmato speculum portaverat auro,
" hoc quoque demus," ait ; " patriis nec gratius ullum
munus erit templis ipsoque potentius auro. 96

¹ corpus 5 : corpeus *M*, and *Pol.* (from *P*), whence *Phyllimore suspects* corpus cum vulnere carpens.

² arcanos . . . liquores *M*: arcano saturat . . . liquore *Schrader*.

^a See *Suet. Dom.* vii.

^b Venus.

^c The "purpureus senex" of *Theb.* i. 334, the king of 190

trusted to unman the lad, but the son of Phoebus with quiet skill gently bids his body lose its sex, unmarred by any wound. But Cytherea is devoured by anxious care, and fears lest the boy suffer. Not yet had the noble clemency of our prince ^a begun to keep our males untouched from birth; to-day it is forbidden to destroy sex and violate manhood, and nature rejoices to behold none but as she brought them forth, nor does a harsh law make slave-mothers afraid to bear the burden of sons.

Thou too, had thy birth been later, wert now a man, and with darkened cheeks and limbs full-grown and strong hadst gladly sent not one gift only to Phoebus' fane; now let this single tress make voyage to thy country's shores. This did the Paphian ^b steep in much balm, this did the fresh Graces comb with threefold hand; to this will yield the ravished purple tress of Nisus, ^c and that which wrathful Achilles kept for Spercheus. When first it was decreed to spoil that snow-white brow and by force to rob those gleaming shoulders, winged Cupids with their Paphian mother flew to thee, and prepared thy locks and put a silken robe about thee. Then with joined arrows they cut off the tress, and laid it on gold and jewels, and Venus their mother seized it as it fell, and anointed it once and twice with her mystic essences. Then one of the troop of boys, who by chance had brought in his upturned hands a mirror finely set in jewelled gold, cried: "This too let us give, no gift could be more pleasing to his country's shrine, and more powerful even than gold. Do thou but gaze

Megara, who had the purple lock on which depended the safety of his realm. He was betrayed by his daughter Scylla, who cut it off.

STATIUS

tu modo fige aciem et vultus hic usque relinque."
sic ait et speculum reclusit imagine rapta.

At puer egregius tendens ad sidera palmas,
"his mihi pro donis, hominum mitissime custos, 100
si merui, longa dominum renovare iuventa
atque orbi servare velis! hoc sidera mecum,
hoc undae terraeque rogant. eat, oro, per annos
Iliacos Pyliosque simul, propriosque penates
gaudeat et secum Tarpeia senescere templa." 105
sic ait et motas miratur Pergamos aras.

V. ECLOGA AD UXOREM¹

Quid mihi maesta die, sociis quid noctibus, uxor,
anxia pervigili ducis suspiria cura?
non metuo ne laesa fides aut pectore in isto
alter amor; nullis in te datur ire sagittis
—audiat infesto licet hoc Rhamnusia vultu—, 5
non datur. et si egomet patrio de litore raptus
quattuor emeritis per bella, per aequora lustris
errarem, tu mille procos intacta fugares,
non intersectas commenta retexere telas,
sed sine fraude palam, thalamosque armata negasses.
dic tamen, unde alta² mihi fronte et nubila vultus? 11
anne quod Euboicos fessus remeare penates
auguror et patria senium componere terra?

¹ ECLOGA AD UXOREM 5: VIA DOMITIANA *M.* AD CLAUDIAM 5
Ed. Prin.

² alta *M*: alia *Aldine*.

^a *i.e.*, Nemesis, from Rhamnus, a town in Attica, which possessed a statue of that goddess.

^b Like Penelope.

therein, and leave thy likeness here for ever." He spoke, and shut the mirror, imprisoning the image.

But the peerless boy stretched forth his hands to heaven, and cried : "Most gentle guardian of men, vouchsafe in reward for my gift, if I so deserve, to keep our prince in the freshness of undying youth, and save him for the world. The sky, the sea, and the earth join with me in my prayer. May he live, I pray, through the years of a Priam and a Nestor both, and rejoicing see his own home and the Tarpeian shrine grow to old age with himself." He spoke, and Pergamus marvelled that her fanes were shaken.

V. THE POET TO HIS WIFE CLAUDIA

The poet pleads with his wife to fall in with his plan to return from Rome to Naples, his birthplace.

Why are you sad, my wife, in the day-time and in the nights we share together ? Why do you sigh for anxiety and wakeful sorrow ? I have no fear lest it be unfaithfulness and a rival passion in your heart ; you are safe against all poisoned shafts, ay—though the Rhamnusian ^a hear my words and frown—safe indeed ! Even were I torn from my native shores and after twenty years of war and seafaring a wanderer still, you would repel unharmed a thousand wooers ; ^b nor would you plan to weave again the unravelled web, but would be frank and open, and even with arms deny your chamber. But say, whence comes this sullen brow, this clouded countenance ? Is it that, broken in health, I purpose to return to my Euboean home, and to settle in old age on my

cur hoc triste tibi ? certe lascivia corde¹
 nulla nec aut rapidi mulcent te proelia Circi 15
 aut intrat sensus clamosi turba theatri ;
 sed probitas et opaca quies et sordida numquam
 gaudia.

Quas autem comitem te rapto per undas ?
 quamquam et si gelidas nem mansurus ad Arctos
 vel super Hesperiae vada caligantia Thyles 20
 aut septemgemini caput haud penetrabile Nili,
 hortarere vias. etenim tua — nempe benigna
 quam mihi sorte Venus iunctam florentibus annis
 servat et in senium —, tua, quae me vulnere primo
 intactum thalamis et adhuc iuvenile vagantem 25
 fixisti, tua frena libens docilisque recepi,
 et semel insertas non mutaturus habenas
 usque premo. tu me nitidis Albana ferentem
 dona comis sanctoque indutum Caesaris auro
 visceribus complexa tuis sertisque dedisti 30
 oscula anhele meis ; tu, cum Capitola nostrae
 infitiata lyrae, saevum ingratumque dolebas²
 mecum victa Iovem ; tu procurentia primis
 carmina nostra sonis totasque in murmure noctes
 aure rapis vigili ; longi tu sola laboris 35
 conscia, cumque tuis crevit mea Thebais annis.
 qualem te nuper Stygias prope raptus ad umbras,
 cum iam Lethaeos audirem comminus amnes,
 aspexi, tenuique oculos iam morte cadentes.
 scilicet exhausti Lachesis mihi tempora fati 40

¹ corde *M* : cordi *Dom*.

² dolebas *Dom*. : doleres *M* : dolere *Krohn*.

^a Domitian had a residence at Alba, where he held contests in music and poetry, at one of which Statius was victorious. It was a great disappointment that he failed at

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native soil? Why does this cause you sorrow? Certainly there is no wantonness in your heart; the contests of the rushing Circus have no charm for you, no clamorous theatre-crowds find a place in your soul, but virtue and sheltered quiet and innocent joys.

But what are the waters o'er which I fain would hurry you with me? although even if I went to dwell at the cold North, or beyond the misty seas of western Thule, or to the unattainable source of sevenfold Nile, you would be urging our departure. For it is you—you, whom Venus of her grace united to me in the springtime of my days, and in old age keeps mine, you, who while yet I roved in youth nor knew aught of love did transfix my heart—you it is whose rein in willing submission I obeyed. and yet press the bit once put within my mouth, without e'er thought of change. When the Alban wreath^a adorned my gleaming locks, and I put on Caesar's sacred gold, you clasped me to your bosom, and showered breathless kisses on my garlands; when the Capitol rejected my lyre, you shared my defeat and mourned the cruelty and ingratitude of Jove. Your wakeful ears caught the first notes of the songs I ventured and whole nights of murmured sound; you alone knew of my long labour, and my *Thebaid* grew with the years of your companionship. When lately I was near snatched away to the Stygian shades, and already heard close at hand the stream of Lethe, how grateful wert thou to my sight! My eyes, already failing in death, were stayed. Surely it was in pity of thee alone that Lachesis prolonged the more important Capitoline contest later on (31): *cf.* also v. 3. 225 f.

te tantum miserata dedit, superique potentes
 invidiam timuere tuam. post ista propinquum
 nunc iter optandosque sinus comes ire moraris ?
 heu ubi nota fides totque explorata per usus,
 qua veteres Latias Graias heroidas aequas ? 45
 isset ad Iliacas—quid enim deterret amantes ?—
 Penelope gavisā domos, si passus Ulixes ;
 questa est Aegiale, questa est Meliboea relinqui,
 et quam—quam saevi !—¹ fecerunt maenada planctus.
 nec minor his tu nosse fidem vitamque maritis 50
 dedere. sic certe cineres umbramque priorem
 quaeris adhuc, sic exsequias amplexa canori
 coniugis ingentes iterasti pectore planctus,
 iam mea. nec pietas alia est tibi curaue natae,
 sic et mater amas, sic numquam corde recedit 55
 nata tuo, fixamque animi penetralibus imis
 nocte dieque tenes. non sic Trachinia² nidos
 Alcyone, vernos non sic Philomela penates
 circuit amplectens animamque in pignora transfert.
 te³ nunc illa tenet, viduo quod sola cubili 60
 otia iam pulchrae terit infecunda iuventae.
 sed venient, plenis venient conubia taedis.
 sic certe formaeque bonis animique meretur ;
 sive chelyn complexa petit seu voce paterna

¹ quamquam saevi *M* : quam — quam saevi — *Pol*.

² Trachinia *5* : intracia *M*.

³ te *Phillimore* : et *M*, heu *Dom*.

^a Aegiale, wife of Diomedes and daughter of Adrastus, called Deipyle in the *Thebaid* ; Meliboea is mentioned by Athenaeus as the wife of Theseus (*Ath.* p. 557), also by Servius (*Aen.* i. 724) as the wife of an Ephesian youth named Alexis.

^b Laodamia, see ii. 7. 126 n.

my exhausted term of life, and the gods above feared thy displeasure. After that do you hesitate to go with me on this short journey to the desirable bay? Ah! where is that loyalty of yours, well-known and put to many a test, that makes you one with the heroines of Greece and Rome? Penelope would have rejoiced to go to Ithum's town—for what deters true lovers?—had Ulysses suffered her; Aegiale chafed, and Meliboea chafed to be left behind,^a and she too whom grief—how savage!—drove to frenzy.^b Yet you no less than these are loyal, and your life is devoted to your lord. Not otherwise indeed do you still seek the ashes and shade of your former husband,^c and embracing the relics of your poet-spouse renew your bitter heartfelt lamentation, even now that you are mine. As great too is your care and devotion for your daughter; your love as a mother is as tender; she is never absent from your heart, but the thought of her abides day and night in the inmost chambers of your being. Less lovingly does Alcyone of Trachis^d flutter round her nest, and Philomela cherish her vernal home, and give her young ones the warmth of her own life. 'Tis she now keeps you, because alone and unmarried she is wasting her youth and beauty in barren leisure. But wedlock will come, ay come with all its festal torches. So assuredly does she deserve for her sweet face and virtuous mind; whether she clasp and strike the lute, or with voice as tuneful as her sire's sing melodies that the Muses

^a It is not known who he was; he, not Statius, was the father of her daughter.

^d Changed by Zeus into the sea-bird called ἀλκυών, according to the fable, while the bird was nesting, the seas were all calm.

STATIUS

discendum Musis sonat et mea carmina flectit, 65
 candida seu molli diducit brachia motu :
 ingenium probitas artemque modestia vincit.
 nonne leves pueros, non te, Cytherea, pudebit
 hoc cessare decus ? nec tantum Roma iugales
 conciliare toros festasque accendere taedas 70
 fertilis : et nostra generi tellure dabuntur.
 non adeo Vesuvinus apex et flammea dirī
 montis hiems trepidas exhaustit civibus urbes :
 stant populisque vigent. hinc auspice condita Phoebō
 tecta Dicarchei portusque et litora mundi 75
 hospita : at hinc magnae tractus imitantia Romae
 quae Capys advectis implevit moenia Teucris.
 nostra quoque et propriis tenuis nec rara colonis
 Parthenope, cui mite solum trans aequora vectae
 ipse Dionaea¹ monstravit Apollo columba. 80

Has ego te sedes—nam nec mihi barbara Thrace
 nec Libye natale solum—transferre laboro,
 quas et mollis hiems et frigida temperat aestas,
 quas imbelles fretum torpentibus adluit undis.
 pax secunda locis et desidis otia vitae 85
 et numquam turbata quies somnique peracti.
 nulla foro rabies aut strictae in iurgia leges :
 morum iura viris solum et sine fascibus aequum.
 quid nunc magnificas species cultusque locorum
 templaque et innumeris spatia interstincta columnis.
 et geminam molem nudi tectique theatri 91

¹ Dionea . . . columba *Pol.* : Dioneae . . . columbae *M.*

^a Puteoli, Capua, Naples. Dione = Venus.

might learn, while she follows the course of my songs, or whether with lithe movement she toss her snow-white arms : her innocence and modesty surpass her talent and her skill. Surely the nimble Loves, surely thou, Cytherea, wilt feel shame that such loveliness is wasted. Nor is it only Rome that is fruitful in marriage unions and blazing festal torches : in my country too are bridegrooms found. Not so utterly has Vesuvius' peak and the flaming tempest of the baleful mountain drained of their townsmen the terror-stricken cities ; they stand yet and their people flourish. Here are the dwellings of Dicarchus, founded with Phoebus' auspices, and the harbour and the shores that the whole world visits ; there are the walls that counterfeit the vastness of mighty Rome, which Capys filled with newcomers from Troy. There too is my own Parthenope, too small for her own citizens, yet with no lack of strangers, Parthenope, whom after she had fared across the sea Apollo himself by the help of Dione's dove guided to a kindly soil.^a

This is the spot—for neither barbarous Thrace nor Libya is my native land—whither I fain would bring you ; mild winters and cool summers temper its climate, its shores are lapped by the sluggish waters of a harmless sea. Peace untroubled reigns there, and life is leisurely and calm, with quiet undisturbed and sleep unbroken. No madness of the forum, no laws unsheathed in quarrel ; our citizens admit but duty's ordinance, and Right holds sway without rod or axe. Why should I now praise the gorgeous scenes and adornments of that land, the temples and wide halls spaced off by countless columns, the two great theatres, one open and one covered, and the

STATIUS

et Capitolinis quinquennia proxima lustris,
 quid laudem litus¹ libertatemque Menandri,
 quam Romanus honos et Graia licentia miscent ?
 nec desunt variae circa oblectamina vitae : 95
 sive vaporíferas, blandíssima litora, Baias,
 enthea fatidicae seu visere tecta Sibyllae
 dulce sit Iliacoque iugum memorabile remo,
 seu tibi Bacchei vineta madentia Gauri
 Teleboumque domos, trepidis ubi dulcia nautis 100
 lumina noctivagae tollit Pharus aemula lunae,
 caraque non molli iuga Surrentina Lyaeo,
 quae meus ante alios habitator Pollius auget,
 Aenarumque² lacus medicos Stabiasque renatas :
 mille tibi nostrae referam telluris amores ? 105
 sed satis, hoc, coniunx, satis est dixisse : creavit
 me tibi, me socium longos adstrinxit in annos.
 nonne haec amborum genetrix altrixque videri
 digna ? sed ingratus qui plura adnecto tuisque
 moribus indubito : venies, caríssima coniunx, 110
 praeveniesque etiam ; sine me tibi ductor aquarum
 Thybris et armiferi sordebunt tecta Quirini.

¹ litus *M* : lusus, risus, lites, ritus *edd.*

² Aenarumque *Vollmer* : Denarumque *M* : Aenariaeque
Dom. : Inanimesque *Unger*.

^a The "freedom of Menander" means the free, unhampered life that Menander valued highly, and which forms the subject of some of his extant sayings, *e.g.* βίου διδάσκαλος | ἐλευθέρου τοῖς πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις ἀγρός, "the country is a teacher of the free life to all." The mixture of Greek and Roman would be a characteristic of Neapolitan life.

quinquennial contests that rival the Capitoline festival? Why should I praise the shore and the freedom of Menander,^a a blend of Roman dignity and Grecian licence? Nor are there lacking all around the amusements that a varied life affords: whether you please to visit Baiae with its steaming springs and alluring coast, or the prophetic Sibyl's inspired abode, or the hill made memorable by the Ilian oar^b; whether you prefer the flowing vineyards of Bacchic Gaurus, or the dwellings of the Teleboae,^c where the Pharos raises aloft the beacon that rivals the night-wandering moon and is welcomed by affrighted sailors, or the Surrentine hills beloved of fiery Bacchus, which my friend Pollius before all men honours by his dwelling, or the health-giving lake of Aenaria and Stabiae reborn^d? Shall I recount to you the thousand beauties of my country? No; 'tis enough, my wife, enough to say: This land bore me for you, and bound me to you in partnership for many a year. May it not worthily be deemed the mother and foster-mother of us both? But 'twere ingratitude in me to add more words and to doubt your loyalty; you will come with me, dearest wife, ay, even go before me; without me Tiber. prince of streams, and the halls of armed Quirinus will seem dull and worthless in your eyes.

^b Of the Trojan Misenus (Virg. *Aen.* vi. 233).

^c Capri, which had a lighthouse.

^d After the eruption.

LIBER IV

STATIUS MARCELLO SUO SALUTEM

Inveni librum, Marcelle carissime, quem pietati tuae dedicarem. Reor equidem aliter quam invocato numine maximi imperatoris nullum opusculum meum coepisse; sed hic liber tres habet . . .¹ se quam quod quarta ad honorem tuum pertinet. Primo autem septimum decimum Germanici nostri consulatum adoravi; secundo gratias egi sacratissimis eius epulis honoratus; tertio viam Domitianam miratus sum, qua gravissimam harenarum moram exemit. Cuius beneficio tu quoque maturius epistolam meam accipies, quam tibi in hoc libro a Neapoli scribo. Proximum est lyricum carmen ad Septimium Severum, iuvenem, uti scis, inter ornatissimos secundi ordinis, tuum quidem et condiscipulum, sed mihi citra² hoc quoque ius artissime carum. Nam Vindicis nostri Herculem Epitrapezion secundum honorem, quem de me et de ipsis studiis meretur,

¹ *Lacuna recognized by Hahn, though none in MSS.: se quam quod M Pol. (from P): sequitur 5, inserting quae after quarta; nisi quod quarta etc. 5. sed nec hic aliter res habet se quam quod etc. Phillimore. Vollmer would fill the lacuna thus: (libellos in honorem eius. tum demum secuntur eclogae ad amicos; vides igitur te magis honorari non (potuisse) quam quod etc.* ² *citra Nohl: contra M.*

BOOK IV

STATIUS TO HIS FRIEND MARCELLUS: GREETING.

I HAVE found a volume, my dearest Marcellus, that I can dedicate to your loyal friendship. I believe that no work of mine has opened without an invocation of the godhead of our mighty Prince ; but this book has three <such poems>, . . . and it is only the fourth that does you honour.^a In the first I have paid homage to the seventeenth consulship of our lord Germanicus ; in the second I have returned thanks for the privilege of attending his most august banquet ; in the third I express my admiration of the Domitian Road, whereby he has ended the serious waste of time caused by the sandy track. To him it is due that you will the sooner receive my letter which I am sending from Naples in this volume. Then follows an Ode to Septimius Severus, who is, as you know, one of the most distinguished young men of equestrian rank, and not only a school-companion of yours, but, even apart from that claim on me, one of my closest friends. As for the Hercules-statuettes of our friend Vindex, I can make you responsible for that also, for he has deserved well

^a This seems to be the general sense.

STATIUS

imputare etiam tibi possum. Maximum Vibium et dignitatis et eloquentiae nomine a nobis diligi satis eram testatus epistola, quam ad illum de editione Thebaidos meae publicavi; sed nunc quoque eum reverti maturius ex Dalmatia rogo. Iuncta est egloga ad municipem meum Iulium Menecratem, splendidum iuvenem et Pollii mei generum, cui gratulor quod Neapolim nostram numero liberorum honestaverit. Plotio Grypo, maioris gradus iuveni, dignius opusculum reddam, sed interim hendecasyllabos, quos Saturnalibus una risimus, huic volumini inserui.

Quare ergo plura in quarto silvarum quam in prioribus? ne se putent aliquid egisse, qui reprehenderunt, ut audio, quod hoc stili genus edidissem. Primum supervacuum est dissuadere rem factam; deinde multa ex illis iam domino Caesari dederam, et quanto hoc plus est quam edere? exercere autem ioco non licet? "secreto" inquit. Sed et sphaeromachias spectamus et palaris lusio admittit. Novissime: quisquis ex meis invitus aliquid legit, statim se profitetur¹ adversum. Ita, quare consilio eius accedam? In summam, nempe ego sum qui traducor; taceat et gaudeat. Hunc tamen librum

¹ profitetur *Vahlen and the Aldine*: profiteatur *M.*

^a *i.e.*, from the honour of the "ius trium liberorum" which had been bestowed upon him.

^b I read "profitetur" with *Vahlen and the Aldine*, also *Vollmer*, as with "profiteatur" the following sentence lacks point, while "taceat" gives a directly contradictory sense.

of poetry in general and of myself in particular. I bore ample testimony to my affection for Vibius Maximus on the score both of high character and of poetic gift in the letter which I published about the bringing-out of my *Thebaid*; but on this occasion I beg him to return from Dalmatia with all speed. Next comes a poem to my fellow-townsmen Julius Menecrates, a brilliant youth, noble knight, and the son-in-law of my friend Pollius: I congratulate him on having done honour to our city of Naples by the number of his children.^a Plotius Grypus, a youth of senatorial rank, shall have a poem more worthy of him, but in the mean time I have included in this volume some hendecasyllables that we laughed over together at the Saturnalia.

Why then, you will ask, are there more pieces in the fourth book of my Occasional Verses than in the former? Why, that they who, as I hear, have criticized me for publishing this kind of verse may feel that they have accomplished nothing. In the first place, the thing is done, and it is useless to grumble; in the second, I had already presented many of them to our Imperial Master, compared with which publication is a trivial affair. Besides, surely one may write in sportive vein? "Only privately," say they. But we go to see games of ball, and are admitted to fencing-matches. Finally: whoever of my friends reads anything unwillingly, then and there declares himself an enemy;^b very well, why should I take his advice? After all, surely it is I who am being abused; let him hold his peace and

"ex meis" might perhaps be taken with "aliquid:" "anything of mine." Markland reads "invidus" for "invitus": "with disapproval."

STATIUS

tu, Marcelle, defendes, et si videtur,¹ hactenus, sin minus, reprehendemur. Vale.

I

SEPTIMUS DECIMUS CONSULATUS IMP. AUG. GERMANICI

Laeta bis octonis accedit purpura fastis
Caesaris insignemque aperit Germanicus annum
atque oritur cum sole novo, cum grandibus astris
clarius ipse nitens et primo maior Eoo.
exsultent leges Latiae, gaudete curules, 5
et septemgemino iactantior aethera pulset
Roma iugo, plusque ante alias Evandrius arces
collis ovet : subiere novi Palatia fasces,
et requiem bisseus² honos precibusque receptis
curia Caesareum gaudet vicisse pudorem. 10
ipse etiam immensi reparator maximus aevi
attollit vultus et utroque a limine grates
Ianus agit, quem tu vicina Pace ligatum

¹ defendēs, et, si videtur *etc.*, *M*: defendes; haec, si videtur *etc. conj. Phillimore*: sed, si videtur *etc. Vollmer*, who transposes hunc . . . defendes to between hactenus and sin minus.

² bisseus *Stangius*: bissextus *M*.

^a The purple is that of the consulship, not of the principate. The date is 95 A.D.

^b The title was given him for his campaigns in Germany, for which he triumphed in 83. It was probably a favourite title of his. See note on 43. ^c The Palatine.

^d Lit. "the twelvefold honour (the consulship, from the twelve lictors of the Consul) rejoices to have overcome repose," i.e. to have obtained Caesar as consul; others take 206

be glad. But you, Marcellus, will champion this book; if you agree, well, so far so good! otherwise, I must submit to criticism. Farewell!

I. THE SEVENTEENTH CONSULSHIP OF THE EMPEROR AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS

This poem belongs to the class of Panegyric or laudation of the Emperor or other distinguished personage, which becomes common in later times, e.g. Claudian, Sidonius, etc

With happy augury the Imperial consulship^a adds yet another to its twice eight terms, and Germanicus^b opens a year of glory; he rises with the rising sun and the mighty constellations, himself more brilliant than they and outshining the early Morning Star. Exult, ye laws of Latium, rejoice, ye curule chairs, and let Rome more proudly strike the sky with her sevenfold summit, and Evander's hill^c make louder boast than other heights! Once more the rods and axes have entered the Palace, the twelvefold honour^d rejoices to rest idle no more, and the Senate that its prayers are heard and Caesar's modesty is overcome. Janus himself, great renewer of eternal Time, near whom thou hast set Peace^e

"requiem" as "Caesar's repose." The former interpretation implies that only when Caesar was consul was the office really alive, a characteristic bit of flattery, as Domitian rarely held it for long, never beyond May 1st, and often only till January 13th, according to Suetonius, *Dom.* 13.

^e Vespasian built a temple of Pax "near the Forum" (Romanum), Suet. *Vesp.* 9, see iv. 3. 17 n. Whether the old Janus-arch of the Forum or the new Janus Quadrifrons of the Forum Transitorium, between the Roman and Julian Fora, is meant, is uncertain, though "utroque" suggests the former. The "new forum" is probably the F. Transitorium.

STATIUS

omnia iussisti componere bella novique
in leges iurare fori. levat ecce supinas 15
hinc atque inde manus geminaque haec voce profatur :

“Salve, magne parens mundi, qui saecula mecum
 instaurare paras, talem te cernere semper
 mense meo tua Roma cupit; sic tempora nasci,
 sic annos intrare decet. da gaudia fastis 20

continua ; hos umeros multo sinus ambiat ostro
et properata tuae manibus praetexta Minervae.
aspicis ut templis alius nitor, altior aris¹

ignis et ipsa meae tepeant tibi sidera brumae ?
moribus atque tuis gaudent turmaeque tribusque 25

purpureique patres, lucemque a consule ducit
omnis honos? quid tale, precor, prior annus habebat?

dic age, Roma potens, et mecum, longa Vetustas,
dinumera fastos nec parva exempla recense,

sed quae sola meus dignetur vincere Caesar. 30
ter Latio deciesque tulit labentibus annis

Augustus fascēs, sed coepit sero mereri :
tu iuuenis praegressus avos. et quanta recusas,

quanta vetas ! flectere tamen precibusque senatus
promittes hunc saepe diem. manet insuper ordo 35

longior, et totidem felix tibi Roma curules
terque quaterque dabit. mecum altera saecula

condes.

et tibi longaeui renovabitur ara parentis² ;
mille tropaea feres, tantum permittre³ triumphos :

¹ aris *M*: astris *M1 in marg.* Pol. notes that *P* has both readings.

² parentis *M*: Tarenti *Turnebus*.

³ permette \mathfrak{S} : promette M .

^a Augustus owed his earlier consulship to force of arms rather than to merit.

to fetter him, and bidden him bring all warfare to an end, and swear allegiance to the laws of thy new Forum, Janus lifts up his head and from either threshold utters his gratitude. Lo ! on this side and on that he raises suppliant hands, and speaks thus with twofold voice : " Hail, great Father of the world, who with me preparest to begin the ages anew, thus would thy Rome ever see thee in my month ; thus should eras be born, thus should the year be opened. Give joys perpetual to our annals ; let those shoulders many a time be draped in purple folds, and in the bordered robe that thy own Minerva's hands make haste to weave for thee. Seest thou how the temples gleam more radiant, how the fire leaps higher on the altars, and even my mid-winter sky grows warmer ? how tribes and knights and purple-clad Senators rejoice in thy virtues, and every rank shines in the lustre of its consul ? What glory so great, I ask, had the year just gone ? Come, speak, imperial Rome, recount, Antiquity, with me the long annals, take no note of petty names, but such only as my Caesar would deign to surpass. Thrice and ten times in the lapse of years did Augustus wield the fasces over Latium, but only late by right of merit^a : thou as a youth didst outstrip thy grandsires. And how many a time hast thou refused, how many a time forbidden to offer ! Yet wilt thou be persuaded, and oft vouchsafe this day to the Senate's prayers. A longer line awaits thee yet, and as oft again, ay, thrice and four times as often will fortunate Rome grant thee the curule chair. With me shalt thou found a second age, and the altar of thy long-lived sire shall be restored ; a thousand trophies shalt thou win, wilt thou but

STATIUS

restat Bactra novis, restat Babylona tributis 40
frenari ; nondum gremio Iovis Indica laurus,
nondum Arabes Seresque rogant, nondum omnis
honorem
annus habet, cupiuntque decem tua nomina menses.”
Sic Ianus clausoque libens se poste recepit.
tunc omnes patuere dei laetoque dederunt 45
signa polo, longamque tibi, dux¹ magne, iuventam
annuit atque suos promisit Iuppiter annos.

II

EUCCHARISTICON AD IMP. AUG. GERM. DOMITIANUM

Regia Sidoniae convivia laudat Elissae,
qui magnum Aenean Laurentibus intulit arvis,
Alcinoique dapes mansuro carmine monstrat,
aequore qui multo reducem consumpsit Ulixem :
ast ego, cui sacrae Caesar nova gaudia cenae 5
nunc primum dominaque dedit consurgere mensa,
qua celebrem mea vota lyra, quas solvere grates
sufficiam ? non, si pariter mihi vertice laeto
nectat odoratas et Smyrna et Mantua lauros,
digna loquar mediis videor discumbere in astris 10

¹ dux *Markland* : rex *M.*

^a Statius elsewhere flatters Domitian for abstaining from triumphs that he might have celebrated, *cf.* iv. 3. 159.

^b After his triumph at the end of 83 Domitian had adopted the title of Germanicus, and later on, probably in 86, had the months September and October called Germanicus and Domitianus (*Suet. Dom.* 13).

^c See Virgil, *Aen.* i. 696 ; Homer, *Odys.* viii. 57.

permit the triumphs.^a Bactra and Babylon are still to be curbed with new tribute, not yet have Indian laurels been laid in the lap of Jove ; not yet do the Arabs and Seres make petition, not yet hath the year its full tale of honour : ten months still yearn for thee to name them.”^b

So Janus ended, and gladly withdrew into his closed portals. Then all the gods flung wide their temples, and gave signs in the glad vault of heaven, and Jupiter vouchsafed thee. O mighty leader, a perpetual youth and his own years.

II. A POEM OF THANKSGIVING TO THE EMPEROR AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS DOMITIANUS

Statius offers his thanks to the Emperor for the great banquet given to Senators and Knights in his new palace, to which the poet had been invited.

He who brought great Aeneas to the Laurentian fields extols the royal banquet of Sidonian Elissa, and he who ended Ulysses' story with his return after long seafaring portrays in lasting verse the supper of Alcinous :^c but I, on whom now for the first time Caesar has bestowed the unwonted rapture of a feast divine, and granted me to ascend to the table of my prince, what skill have I to sing my blessings, what power to express my thankfulness ? Not even if Smyrna^d and Mantua both were to bind their laurels on my exultant head, could I make worthy utterance. Methinks I recline with Jove in mid-heaven, and take

^a One of the reputed birthplaces of Homer.

STATIUS

cum Iove et Iliaca porrectum sumere dextra
 immortale merum ! steriles transmisimus annos :
 haec aevi mihi prima dies, hic limina vitae.
 tene ego, regnator terrarum orbisque subacti
 magne parens, te, spes hominum, te, cura deorum, 15
 cerno iacens ? datur haec iuxta, datur ora tueri
 vina inter mensasque et non adsurgere fas est ?

Tectum augustum, ingens, non centum insigne
 columnis,
 sed quantae superos caelumque Atlante remisso
 sustentare queant. stupet hoc vicina Tonantis 20
 regia, teque pari laetantur sede locatum
 numina. nec magnum properes escendere caelum¹ ;
 tanta patet moles effusaeque impetus aulae
 liberior campo² multumque amplexus operti
 aetheros et tantum domino minor ; ille penates 25
 implet et ingenti genio iuvat. aemulus illic
 mons Libys Iliacusque nitens et³ multa Syene
 et Chios et glaucae certantia Doridi saxa
 Lunaque portandis tantum suffecta columnis.
 longa supra species : fessis vix culmina pendas 30
 visibus auratique putes laquearia caeli.
 hic cum Romuleos proceres trabeataque Caesar
 agmina mille simul iussit discumbere mensis,
 ipsa sinus accincta Ceres Bacchusque laborat

¹ nec magnum properes escendere caelum *Gronovius* :
 excedere *M* : ne in m. pr. excedere c. *Lundstroem*.

² campo *Pol.* : campi *M*.

³ Iliacusque nitens et. *I have filled the lacuna of the MSS.*
thus : Iliacusque nitet . . . multa *M*, Nilaea Syene *Slater*,
cumulata conj. Phillimore ; others in various ways.

^a Of Ganymede.

^b The temple of Jupiter on the Capitol, or, perhaps,
 "magnum caelum," *i.e.* Olympus (22). Some edd. take
 "nec properes" as "do not hasten."

the immortal wine proffered by an Ilian hand ^a ! I have lived barren years, but this is my natal day, this day is the threshold of my life. Is it thou, O ruler of the nations and mighty sire of the conquered world, is it thou, O hope of men and care of the gods, whom I behold while I lie at meat ? Is it granted me indeed to gaze at those features face to face, amid the feasting and the wine, and lawful not to rise up in thy presence ?

An edifice august, huge, magnificent not with an hundred columns, but with as many as would support heaven and the gods, were Atlas eased of his burden. The neighbouring palace of the Thunderer ^b views it with awe, and the Powers rejoice that thou hast a like abode. Nor wouldst thou hasten to ascend to the great sky ; so huge expands the pile, and the reach of the far-flung hall, more unhampered than a plain, embracing beneath its shelter a vast expanse of air, and only lesser than its lord ; he fills the house, and gladdens it with his mighty spirit. Libyan mountain and gleaming Ilian stone are rivals there, ^c and much Syenite and Chian and the marble that vies with the grey-green sea ; and Luna also, chosen but to bear the pillars' weight. Far upward travels the view ; scarce does the tired vision reach the summit, and you would deem it the golden ceiling of the sky. Here when Caesar has bidden the Roman chieftains and the ranks of knighthood ^d recline together at a thousand tables, Ceres herself with robe upgirt and

^c See note on i. 2. 148. The quarries of Luna in Etruria supplied white marble only, despised in comparison with the coloured kinds.

^d The "trabea" was a decorated robe worn by the knights on solemn occasions, also sometimes by the consuls, and originally by the kings.

STATIUS

sufficere. aetherii felix sic orbita fluxit 35
 Triptolemi ; sic vitifero¹ sub palmite nudos
 umbravit colles et sobria rura Lyaeus.

Sed mihi non epulas Indisque innixa columnis
 robora Maurorum famulasque ex ordine turmas,
 ipsum, ipsum cupido tantum spectare vacavit 40
 tranquillum vultus et maiestate serena
 mulcentem radios summittentemque modeste
 fortunae vexilla suae ; tamen ore nitebat
 dissimulatus honos. talem quoque barbarus hostis
 posset et ignotae conspectum agnoscere gentes. 45
 non aliter gelida Rhodopes in valle recumbit
 dimissis Gradivus equis ; sic lubrica ponit
 membra Therapnaea resolutus gymnade Pollux,
 sic iacet ad Gangen Indis ululantibus Euhæ,
 sic gravis Alcides post horrida iussa reversus 50
 gaudebat strato latus adclinare leoni.
 parva loquor necdum aequo tuos, Germanice, vultus :
 talis, ubi Oceanum finem mensasque revisit
 Aethiopum sacro diffusus nectare vultus
 dux superum secreta iubet dare carmina Musas 55
 et Pallenaeos Phoebum laudare triumphos.

Di tibi—namque animas saepe exaudire minores
 dicuntur—patriæ bis terque exire senectæ
 annuerint fines ! rata numina miseris astris,

¹ vitifero *M*: uvifero *Krohn*.

^a He taught men how to sow corn, as Bacchus how to cultivate the grape.

^b There was a cycle of legends about Bacchus's conquests in India, for which see the *Dionysiaca* of Nonnus

^c Supposed scene of the battle of gods and giants, more usually called Phlegra.

Bacchus strive to serve them. So bounteous were the gliding wheels of airy Triptolemus^a; so did Lyaeus overshadow the bare hills and sober fields with the branches of his vines.

But no leisure had I to behold the feast or the tables of Moorish wood resting on supports of Indian ivory, or the rows of attendant slaves, so eager was I to gaze upon himself, ay himself, calm-visaged and in majesty serene tempering his rays and gently veiling the glory of his state; yet the splendour that he would fain conceal shone in his countenance. Such as he was, barbarian foes and foreign tribes would have known him had they seen him. Not otherwise does Gradivus recline in the cool vale of Rhodope, his steeds unyoked; even so does Pollux weary from the wrestling-bouts of Therapnae lay down his slippery limbs; so lies Euhans by Ganges' side while Indians howl;^b so stern Alcides, returning after his grim errand, rejoices to lay his side upon the outstretched lion-skin. I speak of trivial things, nor can I yet find any rival to thy countenance, O Germanicus: such is the monarch of the gods, when he visits once more the bounds of Ocean and the Ethiopian board, and, his face suffused with sacred nectar, bids the Muses utter their mystic songs, and Phoebus praise the triumph of Pallene.^c

May the gods grant thee—for 'tis said they oft give ear to lesser souls—to surpass, twice and thrice over, the limits of thy sire's old age! Mayst thou send appointed deities to the sky,^d and grant temples and

^a An allusion may be intended here to the Temple of the Flavian Gens consecrated by Domitian. Cf. *Theb.* 1. 30. Divine honours were given by Domitian to his brother Titus and to his niece Julia. "domos" = the Palatine.

STATIUS

templaque des habitesque domos ! saepe annua
pandas 60
limina, saepe novo Ianum lictore salutes,
saepe coronatis iteres quinquennia lustris !
qua mihi felices epulas mensaeque dedisti
sacra tuae, talis longo post tempore venit
lux mihi, Troianae qualis sub collibus Albae, 65
cum modo Germanas acies modo Dacae sonantem
proelia Palladio tua me manus induit auro.

III

VIA DOMITIANA

Quis duri silicis gravisque ferri
immanis sonus aequori propinquum
saxosae latus Appiae replevit ?
certe non Libycae sonant catervae
nec dux advena peierante bello 5
Campanos quatit inquietus agros,
nec frangit vada montibusque caesis
inducit Nero sordidas paludes,
sed qui limina bellicosa Iani
iustis legibus et foro coronat, 10
qui castae Cereri diu negata

^a The Capitoline contest.

^b See note on iii. 5. 28.

^c The prize was a golden olive-wreath.

^d The reference is to Hannibal's army, and to the bad faith ("punica fides") of that commander.

^e The reference is to Nero's attempt to make a canal from Lake Avernus to the mouth of the Tiber, which meant

abide in thy palace ¹ Many a time mayst thou fling wide the threshold of the year, and many a time with new lictors offer thy greetings to Janus, many a time renew the garlanded festival of the quinquennial games! ² The day whereon thou didst vouchsafe to me the sacred blessings of thy feast and board came to me after long time as glorious as that when beneath the hills of Trojan ³ Alba I sang now of German wars, now of Dacian battles, and thy hand set the golden circlet of Pallas ⁴ on my brow.

III. THE DOMITIAN ROAD

The Via Domitiana, built in 95, replaced the old, very bad road along the coast from Sinuessa to Naples; the Appian Way struck inland at Sinuessa, and a long detour was necessary, if travellers to Naples wished to avoid the bad road. The new road thus effected a considerable shortening of the journey.

What fearful sound of hard flint and heavy iron fills the stony Appian way where it draws nigh the sea ⁵ Certainly no Libyan ⁶ hordes are thundering, no foreign chieftain scours restlessly the Campanian fields in treacherous warfare, nor is Nero hewing a canal, ⁷ and making a way for squalid meres through cloven mountains. Nay, he who encircles the warlike threshold of Janus with justice and courts of law, ⁸ he who restores to innocent Ceres acres long

cutting through two mountain ridges, see Tac. *Ann.* xv. 42. "paludes," probably the Pomptine marshes.

¹ Probably the Forum Transitorium, see iv. 1. 13 n., and the new Janus Quadrifrons. Cf. Mart. x. 28. 5.

STATIUS

reddit iugera sobriasque terras,
 qui fortem vetat interire sexum
 et censor prohibet mares adultos
 pulchrae supplicium timere formae, 15
 qui reddit Capitolio Tonantem
 et Pacem propria domo reponit,
 qui genti patriae futura semper
 sancit lumina¹ Flaviumque caelum² :
 hic segnis³ populi vias gravatus⁴ 20
 et campos iter omne detinentes
 longos eximit ambitus novoque
 iniectu soldat graves harenas
 gaudens Euboicae domum Sibyllae
 Gauranosque sinus et aestuantes 25
 septem montibus admovere Baias.

Hic quondam piger axe vectus uno
 nutabat cruce pendula viator
 sorbebatque rotas maligna tellus,
 et plebs in medius Latina campis 30
 horrebat mala navigationis ;
 nec cursus agiles, sed impeditum
 tardabant iter orbitae tacentes,⁵
 dum pondus nimium querens sub alta
 repit languida quadrupes statera. 35

¹ lumina *M* : lmina *Ϝ*, numina *Buecheler*.

² caelum *Turnebus* : calvum *M*, cultum, culmen, clivum, clavum (*J. Ph.* 13) *edd.*

³ segnis *Ϝ* : senis *M*· caenis *Gronovius*.

⁴ gravatus *Heinsius* : gravatas *M*.

⁵ tacentes *M* : tenaces *Davies*.

^a Domitian encouraged wheat-growing at the expense of vine-growing in Italy, and actually ordered vineyards to be destroyed in the provinces, *Suet. Dom.* 7.

denied her^a and a sober countryside, he who forbids the strength of sex to be destroyed, and as Censor will allow grown males no more to fear the punishment of beauteous form,^b he who restores the Thunderer to the Capitol,^c and sets Peace in her own home, he who consecrates to his father's line^d lights that will aye endure, a Flavian heaven^e—'tis he who, brooking ill the slow journeys of his people and the plains that clog every minute of the road, sweeps away tedious windings and lays a new solid paving upon the weary sands, rejoicing to bring the Euboean Sibyl's home and the dells of Gaurus and sweltering Baiae nearer to the seven hills.

Here on a time the tardy traveller, borne on a single axle,^f was balanced on the swaying pole, while the unkindly earth sucked in the wheels, and Latin folk shuddered in mid-plain at the evils of a sea-voyage; nor could carriages run nimbly, but the noiseless track made their course hampered and slow, while the fainting beast, complaining of a too heavy load, crept on beneath its lofty yoke. But

^b Refers to Domitian's prohibition of the practice of castration.

^c The restoration of the Temple of Jupiter on the Capitol after the fire of 69.

^d Domitian was only completing the work of Vespasian. Cf. Suet. *Dom.* 5, "omnia sub titulo tantum suo, ac sine ulla pristini auctoris memoria."

^e The "Flavia domus" on the Quirinal was made a shrine of that family, cf. v. 1. 240.

^f The picture seems to be of a two-wheeled gig with its wheels sunk in the mud and the unfortunate traveller precariously clinging to the pole; "crux" is not elsewhere so used, but can easily be understood of the pole with the yoke; "axe vectus uno" is perhaps "with one wheel foundered" (Slater), but Vollmer is surely wrong in making it a four-wheeled carriage.

STATIUS

at nunc, quae solidum diem terebat,
 horarum via facta vix duarum.
 non tensae volucrum per astra pennae
 nec velocius ibitis, carinae.

Hic primus labor incohare sulcos 40

et rescindere limites et alto
 egestu penitus cavare terras ;
 mox haustas aliter replere fossas
 et summo gremium parare dorso,
 ne nutent sola, ne maligna sedes 45

det pressis dubium cubile saxis ;
 tunc umbombus hinc et hinc coactis
 et crebris iter alligare gomphis.
 o quantae pariter manus laborant !
 hi caedunt nemus exuuntque montes, 50

hi ferro scopulos trabesque levant ;
 illi saxa ligant opusque texunt
 cocto pulvere sordidoque tofo ;
 hi siccant bibulas manu lacunas
 et longe fluvios agunt minores. 55

hae possent et Athon cavare dextrae
 et maestum pelagus gementis Helles
 intercludere ponte non natanti.
 his parvus, nisi di via¹ vetarent,
 Inous freta miscuisset Isthmos. 60

fervent litora mobilesque silvae,
 it² longus medias fragor per urbes,

¹ di via *Macnaghten*: deviae *M*, di viam *Barth*, cliviae *I. Voss* (*wh. Vollmer reads*), laurus nisi Deliae *Constantinus Fanensis* (*and Ellis*).

² it *Pol.*: et *M*.

^a This description of road-making is confirmed by excavations, see extract from Bergier's *Histoire des grands*
 220

now a journey that once wore out a solid day is performed in scarce two hours. No swifter fare ye through the heavens, ye birds with outstretched pinions, nor will ye more swiftly sail, ye ships.

The first labour was to prepare furrows and mark out the borders of the road,^a and to hollow out the ground with deep excavation; then to fill up the dug trench with other material,^b and to make ready a base for the road's arched ridge, lest the soil give way and a treacherous bed provide a doubtful resting-place for the o'erburdened stones: then to bind it with blocks set close on either side and frequent wedges. Oh! how many gangs are at work together! Some cut down the forest and strip the mountain-sides, some plane down beams and boulders with iron; others bind the stones together,^b and interweave the work with baked sand and dirty tufa; others by dint of toil dry up the thirsty pools, and lead far away the lesser streams. These hands could hollow out Athos, and bar with no floating bridge the doleful sea of moaning Helle. These hands, did not the gods forbid the passage,^c had made Ino's puny Isthmus^d mingle the sundered seas. The shores are astir and the waving woods, the din travels afar through the cities that lie between, and

chemins de l'empire Romain, in Pauly's *Real-Encycl.* iv. 2. 2547. See also Smith's *Dict. Ant.* s.v. "Via."

^b Lime was used to cement the intermediate strata of the road, consisting of stones, broken brick and pottery. "sordido": called by Vitruvius "tofus niger."

^c Various attempts were made to cut through the Isthmus by Demetrius of Macedon, Julius Caesar, Caligula, and Nero, but the gods seemed to be against the undertaking, "nefasto, ut omnium exitu patuit, incepto," Plin. *N.H.* iv. 10.

^d It was at Lechaecum, a port on the Isthmus, that Ino was worshipped.

STATIUS

atque echon simul hinc et inde fractam
Gauro Massicus uvifer remittit.
miratur sonitum quæta Cyme 65
et Literna palus pigerque Savo.

At flavum caput umidumque late
crinem mollibus impeditus ulvis
Vulturnus levat ora maximoque
pontis Caesarei reclinus arcu 70
raucis talia faucibus redundat :

“ camporum bone conditor meorum,
qui me vallibus avus refusum
et¹ ripas habitare nescientem 75
recti legibus alvei ligasti,

et nunc ille ego turbidus minaxque,
vix passus dubias prius carinas,
iam pontem fero perviusque calor ;
qui terras rapere et rotare silvas
adsueram—pudet !—, amnis esse coepi ; 80

sed grates ago servitusque tanti est,
quod sub te duce, te iubente cessi,
quod tu maximus arbiter meaeque
victor perpetuus legere ripae.

et nunc limite me colis beato 85
nec sordere sinus malumque late
deterges sterilis soli pudorem,

ne me pulvereum gravemque caelo
Tyrreni sinus obluat² profundi,
qualis Cinyphius tacente ripa 90

Poenos Bagrada serpit inter agros,
sed talis ferar, ut nitente cursu
tranquillum mare proximumque possim
puro gurgite provocare Lirim.”

¹ et 5 : it *M*.

² obluat *M* : obruat 5.

the vine-bearing Massic mount throws back to Gaurus the echoes that scatter on every side. Quiet Cyme marvels at the noise, and the Liternian lake and sluggish Savo.

But Vultur^a his yellow head and wide-flung watery tresses entangled in soft sedge, raises his face and leaning against the mighty arch of Caesar's bridge pours out from his strident throat such words as these: "Gracious benefactor of my plains, who, while I poured o'er trackless vales nor knew how to dwell within my banks didst bind me by the law of a strict channel, now do I, that turbulent and dangerous stream, who once scarce brooked frail vessels, already endure a bridge, and am trodden by travellers underfoot; I who was wont to whirl forest and field to ruin, shame on me! am beginning to be a river. But I give thee thanks, and my servitude is worth the while, because under thy rule and at thy command I have yielded, and because thou wilt be read of perpetually as supreme lord and conqueror of my bank. And now thou honourest me with splendid embankments,^b nor sufferest me to be foul, and far and wide dost purge away the evil shame of barren soil; so that the gulf of the Tyrrhenian sea need not cleanse my muddy, sky-polluting stream, like to Cinyphian Bagrada crawling between silent banks through Punic fields: nay, so brightly shall I flow that I shall challenge the calm sea with my sparkling current, or neighbouring Liris with my unstained waters."

^a The Vultur^a flows into the sea about 10 miles S. of Sinuessa: the road would cross it not far from its mouth.

^b Or, "with a splendid channel," as Ov. *Met.* viii. 559 "solito dum limite curiunt flumina," etc.

STATIUS

Haec amnis pariterque se levarat	95
ingenti plaga marmorata dorso	
huius ianua prosperumque lumen	
arcus, belligeris ducis tropaeis	
et totis Ligurum nitens metallis,	
quantus nubila qui coronat imbri. ¹	100
illic fleclitur excitus viator,	
illic Appia se dolet relinqui.	
tunc velocior acriorque cursus,	
tunc ipsos iuvat impetus iugales ;	
ceu fessis ubi remigum lacertis	105
primae carbasa ventilatis, aurae.	
ergo omnes, age, quae sub axe primo	
Romani colitis fidem parentis,	
prono limite commeate gentes,	
Eoae citius venite laurus.	110
nil obstat cupidis, nihil moratur :	
qui primo Tiberim relinquit ortu,	
primo vespere naviget Lucrum	
Sed quam fine viae recentis imo,	
qua monstrat veteres Apollo Cumas,	115
albam crinibus infulisque cerno !	
visu fallimur ? an sacris ab antris	
profert Chalcidicas Sibylla laurus ?	
cedamus ; chely, iam repone cantus :	
vates sanctior incipit, tacendum est.	120
en ! et colla rotat novisque late	
bacchatur spatii viamque replet.	
tunc sic virgineo profatur ore :	
“ dicebam, veniet—manete campi	
atque amnis—, veniet favente caelo,	125

¹ imbri *M*: Iri 5.

Thus spoke the river, and therewith a marbled stretch of roadway had arisen with mighty ridge. Its portal and auspicious threshold was an arch that shone with the warlike trophies of the Prince and all Liguria's mines,^a as vast as that which rings the clouds with rain. There the wayfarer turns aside with quickened speed, there the Appian road grieves that she is left. Then swifter and more furious grows the pace, and even the beasts exult in the speed: as when the rowers' arms are weary and the first breezes fan the sails. Come then all ye who beneath the sky of dawn owe fealty to the Roman Sire, flock hither all ye races on this easy road, come more swiftly than before, ye laurels of the East. Nought hinders your eagerness, nought delays your course: he who leaves Tiber at dawn of day, let him sail the Lucrine lake at earliest eventide.

But what woman is this with snow-white hair and fillet whom I see at the new road's extremest end, where Apollo's temple shows Cumae's ancient site^b? Does my vision err? or does the Sibyl bring forth the Chalcidic^c bayleaves from her sacred grot? Let us retire; lute, lay by thy song! a holier bard begins, and we must be silent. Lo! how she whirls her head around, and rushing in frenzy far and wide about the new-made track fills all the roadway! Then thus she speaks with virgin mouth: "I said it, he will come—have patience, ye fields and river!—he will come by heaven's favour, who will raise this

^a Possibly the mines of Luna are referred to.

^b It is a habit of Statius to reinforce his own praise with that of some supernatural person, *e.g.* Hercules in iii. 1, Janus in iv. 1, Venus in iii. 4, etc.

^c Cumae (Cyme) was a colony of Chalcis in Euboea.

STATIUS

qui foedum nemus et putres harenas
 celsis pontibus et via levabit.
 en ! hic est deus, hunc iubet beatis
 pro se Iuppiter imperare terris ;
 quo non dignior has subit habenas, 130
 ex quo me duce praescios Averni
 Aeneas avide futura quaerens
 lucos et penetravit et reliquit.
 hic paci bonus, hic timendus armis,
 Natura melior potentiorque. 135
 hic si flammigeros teneret axes,
 largis, India, nubibus maderes.
 undaret¹ Libye, teperet Haemus.
 salve, dux hominum et parens deorum,
 provisum mihi conditumque numen. 140
 nec iam putribus evoluta chartis
 sollemni prece quindecim virorum
 perlustra mea dicta, sed canentem
 ipsam comminus, ut mereris, audi.
 vidi² quam seriem³ merentis⁴ aevi 145
 pronectant tibi candidae sorores :
 magnus te manet ordo saeculorum,
 natis longior abnepotibusque
 annos perpetua geres iuventa,
 quos fertur placidos adisse Nestor, 150
 quos Tithonia computat senectus
 et quantos ego Delium poposci.
 iuravit tibi iam nivalis Arctus,
 nunc magnos Oriens dabit triumphos.
 ibis qua vagus Hercules et Euhann 155
 ultra sidera flammeumque solem
 et Nili caput et nives Atlantis,

rotting woodland and these pestilent sands on lofty bridges and a causeway. Lo! a god is he, at Jove's command he rules for him the happy world; none worthier than he has held this sway since under my guidance Aeneas, eagerly searching out the future, penetrated Avernus' prescient groves and went forth again. A friend is he to peace, and terrible in arms, more bountiful than Nature and more powerful. Were his the government of the flaming sky, thou India wouldst be moist with abundant showers, Libya would stream with waters, Haemus would be warm. Hail, ruler of men and parent of gods, foreseen by me and fore-ordained was thy godhead. No longer scan those words of mine that the fifteen men^a with solemn prayer unroll on mouldering sheets, but face to face, as thou deservest, hear me chant my oracle. I have seen what chain of meritorious years the Fates white-clad are weaving for thee; a mighty roll of centuries awaits thee, longer than son or grandson shalt thou bear the years that Nestor reached, as they say, in tranquil age, as many as old Tithonus counted or I myself asked of the Delian god.^b Already the snowy North has paid thee homage, soon the Orient will give thee mighty triumphs. Where wandering Hercules and Euhann^c went thou shalt go, beyond the stars and the flaming sun, and the source of Nile and the snows of Atlas, and blest

^a The XVviri, who had charge of the Sibylline oracles.

^b *i.e.*, as many grains as were in a handful of dust; see Ovid, *Met.* xiv. 130.

^c Bacchus.

¹ undaret *M*: umbraret *Postgate*.

² vidi *M*: audi *Heinsius*.

³ seriern *Dom.*: series *M*.
⁴ merentis *M*: variously emended, recentis, morantis, sequentis, etc.

et laudum cumulo beatus omni
 scandes¹ belliger abnuesque currus ;
 donec Troicus ignis et renatae 160
 Tarpeius pater intonabit aulae,
 haec donec via te regente² terras
 annosa magis Appia senescat."

IV. EPISTOLA AD VITORIUM MARCELLUM

Curre per Euboicos non segnis, epistola, campos,
 hac ingressa vias,³ qua nobilis Appia crescit
 in latus et molles solidus premit agger harenas.
 atque ubi Romuleas velox penetraveris arces,
 continuo dextras flavi pete Thybridis oras, 5
 Lydia qua penitus stagnum navale coercet
 ripa suburbanisque vadum praetexitur hortis.
 illic egregium formaque animisque videbis
 Marcellum et celso praesignem vertice nosces.
 cui primam solito vulgi de more salutem, 10
 mox inclusa modis haec reddere verba memento :

¹ scandes 5 : sandes *M* : laudes *conj.* *Phill.*, frondes *Slater*.

² regente 5 : gerente *M*.

³ vias *M* : via *Vollmer*.

^a Apparently a reference to Domitian's supposed magnanimity in refusing triumphs, *cf.* iii. 3. 168 n.

^b The fire brought from Troy and kept in the temple of Vesta.

^c The plains of Campania, so-called from the town of Cumae, originally colonized by Chalcis in Euboea.

^d This (leftward) bend of the Appian Way to the sea is the same as that referred to in the note at the beginning of the last poem, where the road is mentioned as striking inland (to one travelling from Rome) at Sinuessa.

in all thy wealth of noble deeds thou shalt mount
and again refuse the chariots of war^a: so long as
the Trojan fire^b shall abide and the Tarpeian Father
thunder in his reborn shrine, yea, until under thy
governance of the earth this road grows older than
the Appian's years."

IV. A LETTER TO VITORIUS MARCELLUS

Vitorius Marcellus was of equestrian family, but became Praetor, and was also given charge of the Via Latina; for other details see 4 Praef., ll. 9, 41 ff. and 65 of this poem.

Haste at no laggard speed, my letter, o'er the
Euboean plains^c; set out upon thy road where the
famous Appia branches sideward,^d and a solid mound
is planted on the yielding sands. And when swiftly
travelling thou hast reached the towers of Romulus,
seek forthwith the right bank of yellow Tiber, where
the Lydian shore straitens narrowly the naval basin,^e
and suburban pleasure-gardens fringe the water.
There shalt thou see Marcellus, peerless both in
valour and in looks, and thou shalt know him by the
mark of his lofty stature. First pay thy greeting in
the accustomed manner, then remember to deliver
this verse-embodied message:

^e The "stagnum navale" was a lake excavated by Augustus at the foot of the Janiculum for the purpose of naval displays and sham fights, it was about 50 acres in extent, and surrounded by pleasure gardens. "Lydia ripa" probably means the rising ground on the right bank, i.e. the Etruscan side of the river. The Etruscans were supposed to have come originally from Lydia: cf. Virg. *Aen.* ii. 781 "Lydius fluvius," of the Tiber.

STATIUS

" Iam terras volucremque polum fuga veris aquosi
 laxat et Icariis caelum latratibus urit ;
 ardua iam densae rarescunt moenia Romae.
 hos Praeneste sacrum, nemus hos glaciale Dianae, 15
 Algidus aut horrens aut Tuscula protegit umbra,
 Tiburis hi lucos Anienaque¹ frigora captant.
 te quoque clamosae quatenus plaga mitior urbi
 subtrahit ? aestivos quo decipis aere soles ? 19
 quid ? tuus ante omnis, tua cura potissima, Gallus,
 nec non noster amor—dubium morumne probandus
 ingeniine bonis—Latiis aestivat in oris
 anne metalliferae repetit iam moenia Lunae
 Tyrrhenasque domos ? quod si tibi proximus haeret,
 non ego nunc vestro procul a sermone recedo ; 25
 certum est, inde sonus geminas mihi circuit aures.
 sed tu, dum nimio possessa Hyperione flagrat
 torva Cleonaei iuba sideris, exue curis
 pectus et assiduo temet furare labori.
 et sontes operit pharetras arcumque retendit 30
 Parthus et Eleis auriga laboribus actos
 Alpheo permulcet equos et nostra fatescit
 laxaturque chelys : vires instigat alitque
 tempestiva quies, maior post otia virtus !
 talis cantata Briseide venit Achilles 35
 acrior et positus erupit in Hectora plectris.
 te quoque flammabit tacite repetita parumper
 desidia et solitos² novus exultabis in actus.
 certe iam Latiae non miscent iurgia leges,

¹ Anienaque ς : amenaque *M*.

² solitos ς : solidos *M* and *Vollmer*.

^a *i.e.*, of the Dogstar, " canis Icarus " (Ov. *Am.* ii. 16. 4); the dog, named Maera, belonged to Icarus, son of Oebalus, king of Sparta, and was made a star after its death.

“ Already the flight of rainy spring sets free the earth and the rushing pole, and scorches the heaven with Icarian bayings ^a; already the high walls of crowded Rome grow empty. Some sacred Praeneste shelters, some Diana’s ice-cool glade or rugged Algidus or the shades of Tusculum; others are eager for the groves of Tibur or Anio’s cold waves. And thou—what gentler region draws thee from the clamorous city? With what sky art thou baffling the summer suns? And Gallus, thy favourite, thy chiefest care, whom I too love—whether more to be praised for virtue or for wit I know not—does he pass the summer on Latium’s coast, or seek again the walls of Luna rich in mines and his Tyrrhenian home? But if he is close by thy side, my name now is not far from thy converse; ay, ’tis certain; that is why both my ears are buzzing. But do thou, while the angry mane of Cleonae’s star ^b is blazing, possessed by Hyperion’s exceeding might, set free thy heart from cares and escape from constant toil. The Parthian puts up his noxious arrows and unstrings his bow, and the charioteer refreshes in Alpheus the steeds that Elean labours have exhausted, and my lyre grows weary and is relaxed: timely repose heartens and nourishes strength, valour is increased by a spell of ease. Even so Achilles, when he had sung of Briseis, went forth the fiercer, and putting by his quill burst out against Hector. Thee too will leisure sought once more awhile secretly kindle, and thou wilt go forth refreshed and exultant to thy wonted tasks. Now indeed the Roman courts have ceased to bicker, ’tis the season of idleness and peace,

^b The Constellation Leo, from Cleonae, near Nemea, where Hercules killed the lion.

STATIUS

et pacem piger annus habet messesque reversae 40
 dimisere forum. nec iam tibi turba reorum
 vestibulo querulique rogant exire clientes ;
 cessat centeni moderatrix iudicis hasta,
 qua tibi sublimi iam nunc celeberrima fama
 eminet et iuvenis facundia praeterit annos. 45
 felix curarum, cui non Heliconia cordi
 serta nec imbelles Parnasi e vertice laurus,
 sed viget ingenum et magnos accinctus in usus
 fert animus quascumque vices : nos otia vitae
 solamur cantu ventosaeque gaudia famae 50
 quaerimus. en egomet somnum et geniale secutus
 litus, ubi Ausonio se condidit hospita portu
 Parthenope, tenues ignavo pollice chordas
 pulso Maroneique sedens in margine templi
 sumo animum et magni tumulis adcano magistri : 55
 at tu, si longi cursum dabit Atropos aevi,
 —detque, precor, Latiiue ducis sic numina pergant,
 quem tibi posthabito studium est coluisse Tonante,
 quique tuos alio subtexit munere fasces
 et spatia obliquae mandat renovare Latinae !— 60
 forsitan Ausonias ibis frenare cohortes
 aut Rheni populos aut nigrae litora Thyles
 aut Histrum servare datur metuendaque portae
 limina Caspiacae. nec enim tibi sola potentis
 eloquii virtus : sunt membra accommoda bellis 65

^a The Centumviri were an important court of civil jurisdiction. Its emblem was the spear, originally set up at sales of property captured from the enemy, as questions of property, *e.g.* inheritance, often came before it.

^b According to the legend the Siren of that name threw herself into the sea after being foiled by Ulysses and was

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and the return of the harvest has emptied the forum. Defendants no more throng thy chambers, no querulous clients pray thee to come forth. Idle is the spear that rules the Hundred Judges,^a before whom even now, in all the brilliance of high renown, thy eloquence is pre-eminent and outstrips thy youthful years. Happy thou in thy labours, who carest not for the chaplets of Helicon nor for unwarlike bays from Parnassus' summit, but thy intellect is keen, and thy mind girt up for mighty deeds endures whatever may befall: we beguile a leisured life with song, and seek the fickle delights of fame. Lo! I myself, in quest of sleep and that genial shore where the stranger Parthenope^b found refuge in an Ausonian haven, pluck at my frail strings with feeble fingers, and seated by the threshold of Maro's shrine take heart and make melody at the mighty master's tomb.^c But thou, if Atropos gives thee a long span of life—and 'tis my prayer she may, and that the godhead of the Latian prince may so appoint, whose zealous worshipper, ay even before the Thunderer, thou art, and who adds another duty to thy year of office, and bids thee renew the hilly courses of the Latin Way—thou perchance shalt go to curb the cohorts of Ausonia, or 'tis thy task to guard the peoples of the Rhine or dark Thule's shores, or Ister and the dread approaches of the Caspian gate. For it is not only the gift of powerful eloquence that is thine: thou hast limbs that are made for war, and

washed up in the harbour of Naples, which was called after her. For another legend see iv. 8. 48 n.

^c Virgil's tomb was on the road from Naples to Puteoli, about two miles out from Naples, and was the object of the pious worship of Silus Italicus and many others.

STATIUS

quique gravem tarde¹ subeant thoraca lacerti :
 seu campo pedes ire pares, est agmina supra
 nutaturus apex ; seu frena sonantia flectes,
 serviet asper equus. nos facta aliena canendo
 vergimur in senium : propriis tu pulcher in armis 70
 ipse canenda gerēs parvoque exempla parabis
 magna Getae, dignos quem iam nunc belliger actus
 poscit avus praestatque² domi novisse triumphos.
 surge, agetum, iuvenemque, puer, deprendē paren-
 tem,

stemmate materno felix, virtute paterna. 75
 iam te blanda sinu Tyrio sibi Gloria³ felix
 educat et cunctas gaudet spondere curules."—

Haec ego Chalcidicis ad te, Marcelle, sonabam
 litoribus, fractas ubi Vesvius erigit iras,
 aemula Trinacris volvens incendia flammis. 80
 mira fides ! credetne virum ventura propago,
 cum segetes iterum, cum iam haec deserta virebunt,
 infra urbes populosque premi proavitaque fato⁴
 rura abiisse pari⁵ ? necdum letale minari
 cessat apex. procul ista tuo sint fata Teati 85
 nec Marrucinos agat haec insania montes.

Nunc si forte meis quae sint exordia musis
 scire petis, iam Sidonios emensa labores
 Thebais optato collegit carbasa portu
 Parnasique iugis silvaeque Heliconide festis 90

¹ tarde *M*: subeant arte *O. Mueller*: artandi *conj. Phillimore*.

² avus praestatque *M* (avos prestatque): perstatque *Peyrared and Vollmer*: avo spernitque *Phillimore*.

³ gloria *M*. curia *Markland*.

⁴ fato *Slater*: toto *M*: tosto *Vollmer*: tota *Grasberger*.

⁵ pari *Slater*: mari *M*.

^a "tarde," apparently because his frame is so robust; the idea can be paralleled from the *Thebaid*, e.g. 1. 489.

thews that with difficulty ^a put on the heavy corselet ; should'st thou prepare to go on foot, thy helmet's peak will nod high above the ranks ; should'st thou bend the jingling reins, the mettlesome charger will do thy bidding. We, singing the deeds of others, fall into old age : thou resplendent in thy armour shalt perform actions meet for song, and set a noble pattern before the youthful Geta,^b of whom already his warrior grandsire is demanding worthy feats and grants him to know the triumphs of his house. Up, then, be doing, and overtake thy sire, though he be a man and thou but a lad, happy alike in thy mother's lineage and thy father's prowess. Already blissful Glory nourishes thee, and fondles thee in her robe of Tyrian dye, and delights to promise thee all the curule chairs."

Such, Marcellus, is the song I am singing thee on the Chalcidic strand, where Vesuvius hurls forth broken rage, outpouring fire that would rival Trinacrian flames. Marvellous, but true ! Will future ages believe, when once more crops are growing, and these wastes are green again, that cities and peoples lie beneath, and that their ancestral lands have perished by a like fate ? And still that peak threatens ruin. Far be that fate from thy Teate, nor may such madness seize the Marrucinian hills !

If now perchance you ask what my muse is attempting, my *Thebaid* having completed her Sidonian ^c toils has at last furled her sails in the wished-for haven, and on the ridges of Parnassus and in the

^b His son was called Vitorius Hosidius Geta after his mother, who was of the Hosidii, a senatorial family.

^c i.e., Theban, from the descent of the Thebans from Cadmus.

STATIUS

tura dedit flammis et virginis exta iuvencae
 votiferaque meas suspendit ab arbore vittas.
 nunc vacuos crines alio subit infula nexu :
 Troia quidem magnusque mihi temptatur Achilles,
 sed vocat arcitenens alio pater armaque monstrat 95
 Ausoni maiora ducis. trahit impetus illo
 iam pridem retrahitque timor. stabuntne sub illa
 mole umeri an magno vincetur pondere cervix ?
 dic, Marcelle, feram ? fluctus an sueta minores
 nosse ratis nondum Ioniis credenda periclis ? 100
 Iamque vale et penitus voti tibi vatis honorem¹
 corde exire veta ; nec enim Tirynthius almae²
 parcus³ amicitiae ; cedit tibi gloria fidi
 Theseos, et lacerum qui circa moenia Troiae
 Priamiden caeso solacia traxit amico. 105

V. ODE LYRICA AD SEPTIMIUM SEVERUM

Parvi beatus ruris honoribus,
 qua prisca Teucros Alba colit lares,
 fortem atque facundum Severum
 non solitis fidibus saluto.

¹ honorem *M.* amorem *Dom.*

² *Lacuna, acc. to most edd., after Tirynthius : Vollmer makes al. pec. am. in apposition, cf. Mart. ix. 14. 2, and explains by ellipse of te superat : others read tibi notius, retinentius.*

³ parcus *Slater* : pectus *M.*

^a See the prelude to the *Achilleid* ; it was conventional flattery to suppose that one's real ambition was to sing of the exploits of the Emperor.

glades of Helicon has thrown incense on the festal flames and the entrails of a virgin heifer, and hung up my chaplets on a votive tree. And now another band new twined encircles my vacant locks: ay, 'tis Troy I am attempting and great Achilles,^a but the Sire that wields the bow calls me elsewhere and points me to the mightier arms of the Ausonian chief Long since has impulse urged me thither, but fear holds me back Will my shoulders sustain so great a burden, or will my neck yield under the weight? Tell me, Marcellus, shall I essay the task? or must my bark that knows but lesser seas not yet be trusted to Ionian perils ^b?

And now farewell, and let not regard for the poet who is wholly devoted to thee pass from thy mind; for neither was the Tirynthian chary of warm-hearted friendship; to thee shall yield the fame of loyal Theseus, and of him who to comfort his slain friend dragged Priam's mangled son around the walls of Troy.

V. A LYRIC ODE TO SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

An Alcaic ode in the Horatian manner to his friend Septimius, a young man of equestrian family, who, like the future Emperor of that name, was born in Leptis in Africa. He had been a fellow-pupil of Vitorius Marcellus.

Happy amid the glories of my small estate, where ancient Alba dwells in her Trojan home, I salute in unwonted strains the brave and eloquent Severus.

^b The Ionian and Adriatic seas were proverbially dangerous for ships that preferred to hug the shore.

STATIUS

iam trux ad Arctos Parrhasias hiems 5
concessit altis obruta solibus,
 iam pontus ac tellus renident
 in Zephyros Aquilone fracto.¹

nunc cuncta veris² frondibus annuis
crinitur arbos, nunc volucrum novi
questus inexpertumque carmen,
quod tacita statuere³ bruma.

nos parca tellus pervigil et focus
culmenque multo lumine sordidum
solantur exemptusque testa 15
qua modo ferbuerat Lyaeus.

non mille balant lanigeri greges,
nec vacca dulci mugit adultero,
unique siquando canenti
mutus ager domino reclamat. 20

sed terra primis post patriam mihi
dilecta curis ; hic mea carmina
regina bellorum virago
Caesareo peramavit⁴ auro,

cum tu sodalis dulce periculum 25
conisus omni pectore tolleres,
 ut Castor ad cunctos tremebat
 Bebryciae strepitus harenae.

¹ in Zephyros . . . fracto *Buecheler, Krohn*: iam zephios
. . . fractos *M.*

² veris *M*: veri *Baehrens*. *Postgate* punctuates after
veris: sc. sunt.

At last harsh winter has fled to the Parrhasian North,^a o'erwhelmed by lofty suns; at last the cold winds are softened into mild zephyrs, and sea and land are smiling. Now every tree puts forth her yearly tresses of spring leaves, now are heard the birds' new plainings and the unpractised songs which they planned in the silent winter. As for me, my thrifty domain and ever-wakeful hearth and roof-tree blackened by many a fire console me, and the wine^b that I take from the jar where lately it fermented. Here no thousand woolly sheep utter bleatings, no cow lows to its sweet lover; and only to their master's voice, as he sings, whene'er he sings, do the mute fields re-echo. But this land, after my native country, holds first place in my love: here the maiden queen of battles^c favoured my songs with Caesar's golden crown, when you, striving with all your might, succoured your friend in his joyous hazard, even as Castor trembled at all the noise of the Bebrycian arena.^d

^a From Callisto, an Arcadian maiden, who was turned into a bear by Hera out of jealousy, and then made the constellation of the Bear; Parrhasus is a town in Arcadia.

^b Bacchus, *i.e.* wine.

^c *i.e.*, Pallas. The reference is to the golden olive-wreath that was the prize of victory in the Alban contest; *cf.* iv. 2. 67.

^d When Pollux fought against Amycus, king of the Bebrycians, during the voyage of the Argo. The meaning of ll. 25-26 seems to be that his friend gave him all the encouragement he could, being as anxious for him to win as Castor was when Pollux was fighting.

³ statuere *M*: tacuere *conj.* *Phillimore*.

⁴ peramavit *M*: decoravit *Markland*: reparavit *conj.* *Phillimore*.

STATIUS

tene in remotis Syrtibus avia Leptis creavit ? iam feret Indicas messes odoratisque rara cinnama praeripiet Sabaeis.	30
quis non in omni vertice Romuli reptasse dulcem Septimium putet ? quis fonte Iuturnae relictis uberibus neget esse pastum ?	35
nec mira virtus : protinus Ausonum portus vadosae nescius Africae intras adoptatusque Tuscis gurgitibus puer innatasti.	40
hinc parvus inter pignora curiae contentus artae lumine purpurae crescis, sed immensos labores indole patricia secutus.	
non sermo Poenus, non habitus tibi, externa non mens : Italus, Italus. sunt Urbe Romanisque turmis, qui Libyam deceant alumni.	45
est et frementi vox hilaris foro, venale sed non eloquium tibi ; ensisque vagina quiescit, stringere ni iubeant amici.	50
sed rura cordi saepius et quies, nunc in paternis sedibus et solo Veiente, nunc frondosa supra Hernica, nunc Curibus vetustis.	55

^a A spring in Rome.

^b The angusticlave, or two narrow purple stripes down

Did Leptis that loses itself in the distant Syrtes beget you? soon shall she bear Indian harvests, and despoil the perfumed Sabaeans of their rare cinnamon. Who would not think that my sweet Septimius had crawled an infant on all the hills of Rome? Who would not say that he had drunk, his weaning done, of Juturna's fountain ^a? Nor is your prowess to be wondered at: straightway, still ignorant of Africa and its shallows, you entered the havens of Ausonia, and sailed, an adopted child, on Tuscan waters. Then, still a lad, you grew to manhood among the sons of the Senate, content with the glory of the narrow purple,^b but with patrician soul seeking unmeasured labours. Neither your speech nor your dress is Punic,^c yours is no stranger's mind: Italian are you, Italian! Yet in our city and among the knights of Rome are men who might well be foster-sons of Libya.^d Pleasing too is your voice in the strident courts, but your eloquence is never venal; your sword sleeps in its scabbard, save when your friends bid you draw it. But oftener do you enjoy the quiet country, now in your father's home on Veientine soil, now on the leafy heights of Hernica, now in ancient Cures. Here will you plan more the front of the tunic, was the mark of knighthood (see Preface to Book IV.), but young sons of knights were sometimes granted the right of wearing the laticlave, one broad purple stripe; one may perhaps gather that this right was not granted in the case of Septimius. His soul, however, was truly noble ("patricia indole").

^c From which one may gather that Roman families living in Africa sometimes showed traces of Carthaginian speech; Vollmer, however, takes this as meaning "your word is true," not characterized by "punica fides," as in l. 48.

^d *i.e.*, so untrustworthy are they. It could also be rendered: "Yes in the City . . . Libya has sons who would adorn her."

STATIUS

hic plura pones vocibus et modis
passu¹ solutis, sed memor interim
nostri verecundo latentem
barbiton ingemna sub antro.

60

VI. HERCULES EPITRAPEZIOS NOVI VINDICIS

Forte remittentem curas Phoeboque levatum
pectora, cum patulis tererem vagus otia Saeptis
iam moriente die, rapuit me cena benigni
Vindicis. haec imos animi perlapsa recessus
inconsumpta manet. neque enim ludibria ventris 5
hausimus aut epulas diverso a sole petitas
vinaque perpetuis aevo certantia fastis.
a miseri! quos nosse iuvat, quid Phasidis ales
distet ab hiberna Rhodopes grue, quis magis anser
exta ferat, cur Tuscus aper generosior Umbro, 10
lubrica qua recubent conchyli mollius alga:
nobis verus amor medioque Helicone petitus

¹ passu *Markland* • passum *M*, passim *5*.

^a The Saepta Julia was a much frequented public place in the Campus Martius, with some of the best shops in Rome; see Mart. ii 14, ix. 59.

^b The dinner has passed into the soul, and becomes a precious memory. Vollmer quotes Cic. *Tusc.* v. 100, "vestrae quidem cenae non solum in praesentia, sed etiam postero die iucundae sunt," "your dinners delight one not at the time only, but also on the morrow"; also Epicurus, who praises "plain living and high thinking."

^c The pheasant.

^d Or, with more point in "hiberna," "a crane caught on

themes in the words and measures that move unfettered, but remembering me at times strike anew the lyre that lies hid in some shy grotto.

VI. THE HERCULES STATUETTE OF NOVIUS VINDEX

The poem consists chiefly of the description of the Hercules, a statuette (epitrapezios = statue to be put on a table) belonging to Novius Vindex, a connoisseur in art, who is mentioned by Martial (VII. 72. 7) in addition to the two epigrams in which the same statuette is described (IX. 43, 44). The statue was a bronze, and represented the god as seated, with a goblet in one hand and the club in the other; the type is a common one (see Roscher's Lexicon der Mythol. I. 2176). It is clear that both Statius and Martial, as well as Novius, took it for a genuine work of Lysippus.

One day when putting aside my tasks with heart unburdened by Phoebus I was wandering aimlessly at sundown in the broad spaces of the Enclosure,^a kind Vindex took me off to dine. That feast sank deep into the recesses of my soul,^b and remains unconsumed. For it was no wanton dainties of the belly that we devoured, no sweetmeats sought under distant suns, no wines whose ages rival our continuous Annals. Unhappy they whose delight is to know how the bird of Phasis^c differs from a crane of wintry Rhodope,^d what kind of goose has the largest liver, why a Tuscan boar is richer than an Umbrian, on what seaweed the slippery shell-fish most comfortably recline: as for us, real affection and discourse fetched from the heart of Helicon and merry jests

Rhodope in winter," i.e. a rarity, as cranes always flew south in winter.

STATIUS

sermo hilaesque ioci brumalem absumere noctem
 suaserunt mollemque oculis expellere somnum,
 donec ab Elysus prospexit sedibus alter 15
 Castor et hesternas risit Tithonia mensas.
 o bona nox iunctaque utinam Tirynthia luna !
 nox et Erythraeis Thetidis signanda lapillis
 et memoranda diu genumque habitura perennem !
 mille ibi tunc species aerisque eborisque vetusti 20
 atque locuturas mentito corpore ceras
 edidici. quis namque oculis certaverit usquam
 Vindicis, artificum veteres agnoscere ductus
 et non inscriptis auctorem reddere signis ?
 hic tibi quae docto multum vigilata Myroni 25
 aera, laboriferi vivant quae marmora caelo
 Praxitelis, quod ebur Pisaeo pollice rasum,
 quid Polycliteis iussum spirare caminis,
 linea quae veterem longe fateatur Apellen,
 monstrabit : namque haec, quotiens chelyn exuit, illi
 desidia est, hic Aoniis amor avocat antris. 31

Haec inter castae genus tutelaque mensae
 Amphitryoniades multo mea cepit amore
 pectora nec longo satiavit lumina visu :
 tantus honos operi finesque inclusa per artos¹ 35
 maiestas ! deus ille, deus ! seseque videndum
 indulsit, Lysippe, tibi parvusque videri
 sentiriue ingens ! et cum mirabilis intra

¹ finesque . . per artos : finesque (tenuesque, iuvenesque
edd.) per artus *M.*

^a Castor and Pollux were allowed to live on alternate days ; Tithonia is the Dawn.

^b *i.e.*, such a night as that wherein Hercules was begotten, of twice the usual length.

^c *i.e.*, pearls, fetched from the Erythraean sea ; an im-

persuaded us to sit out a winter's night and to banish soft sleep from our eyes, until the other Twin ^a looked forth from Elysium, and Tithonia laughed at yesterday's banquet. O night of bliss! would it had been Tirynthian, with moon added to moon! ^b a night to be marked with the Erythraean gems ^c of Thetis, a night to be long told of, a night whose spirit ^d will live for ever! There and then did I learn of a thousand beauties of bronze and ancient ivory, and deceiving shapes of wax on the verge of speech. For who ever rivalled the keen glance of Vindex in recognizing the hand of an old master and telling the author of an untitled work? 'Tis he who will show you on what bronzes cunning Myron spent anxious vigils, what marbles the chisel of untiring Praxiteles has made to live, what ivories the thumb of the Pisaeon ^e has smoothed, what statues have been bidden breathe in Polychytus' furnaces, what lines confess from afar the old Apelles; for this, whensoever he puts his lyre from him, is his leisure, this passion calls him from Aonian ^f dells

Amid these treasures was a Hercules, the deity and guardian of his frugal board, with which I fell deeply in love; nor, though long I gazed, were my eyes sated with it; such dignity had the work, such majesty, despite its narrow limits. A god was he, ay, a god! and he granted thee to behold him, Lysippus, small to the eye, yet a giant to the mind! And though his stature be marvellously confined

provement on the usual "chalk," as a means of marking a "white" day. Thetis was a sea-goddess.

^a For "genius" see note on ii. 7. 132.

^e Phidias, famed for his chryselephantine statue of Zeus at Olympia (Pisa).

^f *i.e.*, of the Muses (= Boeotian).

STATIUS

stet mensura pedem, tamen exclamare libebit,
 si visus per membra feres : " hoc pectore pressus 40
 vastator Nemees, haec exitiale ferebant
 robur et Argoos frangebant brachia remos."
 a! spatio¹ tam magna brevi mendacia formae!
 quis modus in dextra, quanta experientia docti
 artificis curis, pariter gestamina mensae 45
 fingere et ingentes animo versare colossos!
 tale nec Idaeis quicquam Telchines in antris
 nec stolidus Brontes nec, qui poluit arma deorum,
 Lemnius exigua potuisset ludere massa.
 nec torva effigies epulisque aliena remissis, 50
 sed qualem parci domus admirata Molorchi
 aut Aleae lucis vidit Tegeaea sacerdos;
 qualis et Oetaeis emissus in astra favillis
 nectar adhuc torva laetus Iunone bibebat:
 sic mitis vultus, veluti de pectore gaudens, 55
 hortatur mensas. tenet haec marcentia fratris
 pocula, at haec clavae² meminit manus; aspera sedis³
 sustinet et cultum Nemeaeo tegmine saxum.
 Digna operi fortuna sacro. Pellaeus habebat
 regnator laetis numen venerabile mensis 60
 et comitem occasus secum portabat et ortus,
 praestabatque⁴ libens modo qua diademata dextra

¹ a! spatio *Baehrens*. ac spatium *M*, hoc *Pol.*, an *Dom.*, nec *Phillimore*, spatio *Dom.*

² clavae *Markland*. levae *M*.

³ sedis *M* (= sedes acc. to *Vollmer*).

⁴ praestabatque *M*: prensabatque *Pol.*

^a This appears to be a direct reference to the "crab" caught by Hercules in the Argo through the breaking of his oar (see the *Argonautica* of Valerius Flaccus, III. 476).

^b "magna" by hypallage for "magnae"; the same idea

within a foot's height, yet will you be fain to cry, as you cast your eyes o'er his limbs: "This is the breast that crushed the ravager of Nemea, these the arms that bore the deadly club, and broke the oars of Argo." ^a To think that a tiny frame should hold the illusion of so mighty ^b a form! What preciseness of touch, what daring imagination the cunning master had, at once to model an ornament for the table and to conceive in his mind mighty colossal forms! No such work could Telchines in the caves of Ida, or dull Brontes or the Lemnian ^c who makes bright the armour of the gods have playfully fashioned from some small lump of metal. No wrathful likeness was it, unsuited to the gaiety of the feast, but in such mood as the home of thrifty Molorchus ^d marvelled to behold, or the Tegean priestess ^e in Alea's groves; or as when, sent heavenward from Oeta's ashes, he joyfully drank the nectar, though Juno still frowned: with even so kindly a countenance, as if rejoicing from his heart, doth he cheer the banquet. One hand holds his brother's tipsy goblet, but the other forgets not his club; a rocky seat supports him, and the Nemean lionskin drapes the stone.

So divine a work had a worthy fate. It was a deity revered at the merry banquets of the Pellaean monarch,^f and alike in East and West it bore him company; gladly did he set it before him, with that same hand that had given crowns and taken them

is expressed in lines 37 and 45, *i.e.* the artist's skill in making a small image convey the impression of giant form.

^c Vulcan.

^d The cottager who entertained Hercules when about to slay the lion of Nemea.

^e Auge, for whom see note on iii. 1. 40.

^f Alexander the Great.

STATIUS

abstulerat dederatque et magnas veiterat urbes.
 semper ab hoc animos in crastina bella petebat,
 huic acies semper victor narrabat opimas, 65
 sive catenatos Bromio detraxerat Indos
 seu clusam magna Babylona refregerat hasta
 seu Pelopis terras libertatemque Pelasgam
 obruerat bello ; magnoque ex agmine laudum
 fertur Thebanos tantum excusasse triumphos. 70
 ille etiam, magnos Fatis rumpentibus actus,
 cum traheret letale merum, iam mortis opaca
 nube gravis vultus alios in numine caro
 aeraque supremis timuit sudantia mensis.

Mox Nasamoniaco decus admirabile regi 75
 possessum ; fortique deo libavit honores
 semper atrox dextra periuroque ense superbus
 Hannibal. Italicae perfusum sanguine gentis
 diraque Romuleis portantem incendia tectis
 oderat, et cum epulas, et cum Lenaea dicaret 80
 dona, deus castris maerens comes ire nefandis,
 praecipue cum sacrilega face miscuit arces
 ipsius immeritaeque domos ac templa Sagunti
 polluit et populis furias immisit honestas.

Nec post Sidonii letum ducis aere potita 85
 egregio plebeia domus. convivium Syllae¹
 ornabat semper claros intrare penates
 adsueta et felix dominorum stemmate signum.

Nunc quoque, si mores humanaque pectora curae
 nosse deis ; non aula quidem, Tirynthie, nec te 90

¹ Syllae Dom. : sibillae M.

^a Bacchus also was supposed to have conducted successful campaigns in India, see note on iv. 2. 49.

^b Alexander captured and destroyed Thebes, which
248

away, and had ruined mighty cities. From it he sought courage for to-morrow's battle, to it he related, triumphant, the glorious fight, whether he had despoiled Bromius of fettered Indians,^a or with his strong spear had burst the enclosing walls of Babylon, or overwhelmed in war the lands of Pelops and Pelasgian freedom; and of all that tale of mighty deeds he is said to have asked pardon only for his Theban triumph.^b He too, when the Fates cut short his prowess, and he drank the deadly draught, in the very gloom and heaviness of death, was afraid at the altered face of his favourite deity, and at the bronzes that dripped sweat at that last banquet.

Next its marvellous beauty was possessed by the Nasamonian^c chief; and Hannibal, that ruthless warrior, haughty and treacherous in fight, paid honours to the valiant god. Yet the god hated him, drenched in Italian blood and threatening Roman homes with terrible flame, ay, even when he set feasting and gifts of wine before him; in sorrow did the god go forth with that cursed troop, especially when his own shrines were impiously fired, when the homes and temples of innocent Saguntum were outraged, and its people filled with righteous frenzy.

And after the death of the Sidonian leader 'twas no plebeian house obtained the peerless bronze. Ever wont to enter famous houses and blest in the lineage of its lords it adorned the feasts of Sulla.

Now too, if deities care to know the hearts and souls of men, no palace, no royal pomp surrounds thee, O Tirynthian, but thy master's soul is pure and revolted against him. Thebes was the birthplace of Hercules

^c = African, *i.e.* Hannibal.

STATIUS

regius ambit honos, sed casta ignaraque culpa
 mens domini, cui prisca fides coeptaeque perenne
 foedus amicitiae. scit adhuc florente sub aevo
 par magnis Vestinus avis, quem nocte dieque
 spirat et in carae vivit complexibus umbrae. 95
 hic igitur tibi laeta quies, fortissime divum,
 Alcide, nec bella vides pugnasque feroces,
 sed chelyn et vittas et amantes carmina laurus
 hic tibi solemni memorabit carmine, quantus
 Iliacas Geticasque domos quantusque nivalem 100
 Stymphalon quantusque iugis Erymanthon aquosis
 terrueris, quem te pecoris possessor Hiberi,
 quem tulerit saevae Mareoticus arbiter arae
 hic penetrata tibi spoliataque limina mortis
 concinet et flentes Libyae Scythiaeque puellas. 105
 nec te regnator Macetum nec barbarus umquam
 Hannibal aut saevi posset vox horrida Syllae
 his celebrare modis. certe tu, muneris auctor,
 non aliis malles oculis, Lysippe, probari.

VII. ODE LYRICA AD VIBIUM MAXIMUM

Iam diu lato satiata¹ campo
 fortis heroos, Erato, labores
 differ atque ingens opus in minores
 contrahe gyros ;

¹ satiata ς : sociata *M.* spatiata ς , *Phyllimore, cf. Theb.* ix. 213.

^a The exploits of Hercules referred to are Trojan war, horses of Diomedes, Stymphalian birds, Erymanthian boar, Geryon, Busiris, Alcestis and Cerberus, Hesperides, Amazons.

^b *i.e.*, Macedonians.

innocent of error ; old-world loyalty is his, and the unfailing bond of a friendship once begun. Vestinus knows it, who even in youth equalled his mighty sires, and whose spirit Vindex breathes by night and day, and lives in the embrace of that beloved shade. Here then hast thou a welcome resting-place, Alcides, most valiant of gods, nor beholdest battles or savage fights, but the lyre and chaplets and music-loving bays. Here in solemn chant will he recount to thee in what might thou didst terrify Getic and Ilian homes and snowy Stymphalus and Erymanthus with its streaming ridges ; how the owner of the Iberian herd, how the Mareotic guardian of the cruel shrine endured thy power ; he will sing of the gates of Death penetrated and spoiled by thee, of the weeping maids of Libya and of Scythia.^a Neither the ruler of the Macetae^b nor barbarous Hannibal nor the uncouth accents of fierce Sulla could e'er have celebrated thee in such strains. And of a surety thou, Lysippus, the author of the gift, wouldst not have chosen to be approved by other eyes than these.

VII. A LYRIC ODE TO VIBIUS MAXIMUS

A Sapphic ode in which the poet expresses his desire to see his friend again, and congratulates him on the birth of a son. Vibius Maximus was serving in Dalmatia ; at a later time he was prefect of Egypt, as we learn from an inscription (C.I.L. iii. 38). One may also gather that he had literary tastes.

Long time, bold Erato, hast thou had thy fill of the spreading field, but now put off thy heroic labours and contract thy mighty task to narrower circles ;

STATIUS

tuque, regnator lyricae cohortis, 5
da novi paulum mihi iura plectri,
si tuas cantu Latio sacravi,

Pindare, Thebas :

Maximo carmen tenuare tempto ; 10
nunc ab intonsa capienda myrto
serta, nunc maior sitis et bibendus
castior amnis.

quando te dulci Latio remittent
Dalmatae montes, ubi Dite viso 15
pallidus fessor redit erutoque
concolor auro ?

ecce me natum propiore terra
non tamen portu retinent amoeno
desides Baiae liticene notus 20
Hectoris armis.¹

torpor est nostris sine te Camenis,
tardius sueto venit ipse Thymbrae
rector et primis meus ecce metis
haeret Achilles.

quippe te fido monitore nostra 25
Thebais multa cruciata lima
temptat audaci fide Mantuanae
gaudia famae.

sed damus lento veniam, quod alma
prole fundasti vacuos penates. 30
o diem laetum ! venit ecce nobis
Maximus alter !

and thou, Pindar, ruler of the lyric choir, grant me awhile the privilege of unwonted song, if I have hallowed thy own Thebes in Latin strains: 'tis for Maximus that I attempt to refine my verse; now must I take my garlands from unplucked myrtle, now a nobler thirst is mine, a purer stream must be quaffed. When wilt thou return again to pleasant Latium from the Dalmatian mountains, where the miner returns all pale at the sight of Dis and yellow as the gold he has unearthed? ^a Lo! I, though born in nearer lands, am not held fast by lazy Baiæ's lovely haven, or by the trumpeter known to Hector's battles.^b Without thee my Muse is sluggish, even Thymbra's lord ^c is slower than of wont in his coming, and lo! my Achilles halts at the first turning-point of his course: while it is with thee for trusty counsellor that my *Thebaid*, tortured by endless polishing, attempts with audacious string the joys of Mantuan renown. But we pardon thy delaying, because thou hast established thy empty home with flourishing offspring. O happy day! lo! a second

^a Statius here is clearly imitating Silius Italicus, *Pun.* i. 1. 231.

Astur avarus
visceribus lacerae telluris mergitur imis
et redit infelix effosso concolor auro.

For other mentions of Dalmatian mines *cf.* i. 2. 153 and iii. 3. 90. "Dis": *i.e.* he has descended so far into the earth (Dis=Pluto).

^b Misenus.

^c Apollo, god of inspiration.

¹ liticenve . . . armis *ed. Parmensis*: laticemve motus Hectoris amnis *M.*

STATIUS

orbitas omni fugienda misu,
 quam premit votis inimicus heres,
 optimo poscens—pudet heu !—propinquum 35
 funus amico.¹

orbitas nullo tumultata fletu :
 stat domo capta cupidus superstes
 imminens leti spoliis et ipsum
 computat ignem. 40

duret in longum generosus infans,
 perque non multis iter expeditum
 crescat in mores patrios avumque
 provocet actis !

tu tuos parvo memorabis enses, 45
 quos ad Eoum tuleris² Orontem
 signa frenatae moderatus alae
 Castore dextro ;

ille ut invicti rapidum secutus
 Caesaris fulmen refugis amaram 50
 Sarmatis legem dederit, sub uno
 vivere caelo.

sed tuas artes puer ante discat,
 omne quis mundi senium remensus
 orsa Sallusti brevis et Timavi 55
 reddis alumnum.

¹ propinquum funus amico *5 and edd.* : propinquo . . .
 amici *M* : propinquo . . . amice *Krohn, Klotz.*

² tuleris *Avantius* : tuleras *M.*

Maximus comes to us! Childlessness^a must be shunned by every effort; the heir with hostile vows presses hard upon it, asking—ah! for shame!—that his best friend soon may die. Childlessness wins no tears at the grave; in the captured house stands the greedy survivor, eager for the spoils of death, and counts the cost of the very pyre. Long live the high-born babe, and, by a path that few may tread, may he grow into his father's virtues, and rival his grandsire by his deeds! Thou shalt tell thy child how thou didst lead thy swordsmen to Eastern Orontes, commanding 'neath Castor's favour^b the banners of thy well-curbed squadrons. He shall relate how he followed the swift-flashing brand of invincible Caesar, and imposed a hard law on the fugitive Sarmatians,^c to live under one sky.^d But first let the lad learn thy skill, whereby retracing all the old age of the world thou dost render again the work of brief Sallust^e and the foster-son of Timavus.

^a The poet himself was childless, but adopted a slave boy; the death of this boy was deeply felt by him (see v. 3).

^b As a cavalry leader he would be under the protection of Castor and Pollux, patrons of the Roman knights.

^c Domitian's campaign against the Sarmatians, 92-93.

^d *i.e.*, to cease to be nomads.

^e Apparently a sort of handbook of world-history, with an epitome of Sallust and Livy.

STATIUS

VIII. GRATULATIO AD IULIUM MENECRATEN

Pande fores superum vittataque templa Sabaeis
 nubibus et pecudum fibris spirantibus imple,
 Parthenope ; clari genus ecce Menecratis auget
 tertia iam soboles. procerum tibi nobile vulgus
 crescit et insani solatur damna Vesaevi. 5
 nec solum festas secreta Neapolis aras
 ambiat : et socii portus dilectaque miti
 terra Dicarcheo nec non plaga cara madenti
 Surrentina deo sertis altaria cingat,
 materni qua litus avi, quem turba nepotum 10
 circuit et similes contendit reddere vultus.
 gaudeat et Libyca praesignis avunculus hasta,
 quaeque sibi genitos putat attollitque benigno
 Polla sinu. macte, o iuvenis, qui tanta merenti
 lumina das patriae. dulci tremit ecce tumultu 15
 tot dominis clamata domus. procul atra recedat
 Invidia atque alio lventia pectora flectat :
 his senium longaeque decus virtutis et alba
 Atropos et patrius laurus promisit Apollo.
 ergo quod Ausoniae pater augustissimus urbis 20
 ius tibi tergeminae dederat laetabile prolis,
 omen erat. venit totiens Lucina piumque

^a The eruption of Vesuvius took place in 79 A.D.

^b *i.e.*, probably in some campaign against African tribes.

^c The " ius trium liberorum," on this occasion as on others (see Mart. iii. 95 ; Plin. *Ep.* x. 2) awarded purely as a compliment.

VIII A POEM OF CONGRATULATION TO
JULIUS MENECRATES

This, like the last piece, is a Genethliacon, or birthday poem; Statius congratulates his friend on the birth of his third child. Menecrates was the son-in-law of Pollius Felix.

Fling wide the thresholds of the gods, Parthenope,
and fill the chaplet-hung shrines with clouds of
Sheba's incense and the breathing entrails of victims!
lo! by yet a third offspring is the house of illustrious
Menecrates increased. Thy noble host of princes
grows and atones the loss that mad Vesuvius^a caused
thee. Nor let Naples in lonely isolation throng her
festal altars; let her fellow-haven and the land that
gentle Dicarcheus loved and the Surrentine tract dear
to the tipsy god enwreath their shrines with gar-
lands,—that shore where dwells the babe's maternal
grandsire, with his crowd of grandchildren around
him, rivalling each other in their likeness to him.
Let the uncle too, famed for his Libyan spear,^b
rejoice, and Polla, who counts them her own sons as
she raises them to her loving bosom. A blessing on
thee, O youth, who givest in due reward to thy
country such bright progeny. Lo! the house rocks
with delightful tumult, ringing with the cries of so
many masters. Avaunt, black Envy, turn elsewhere
thy livid breasts! To these hath white-robed
Atropos promised old age and the glory of enduring
worth, and their native Apollo vouchsafed the bays
of poesy. Therefore was it an omen that the most
august sire of the Ausonian City had given thee the
glad privilege of triple offspring.^c Thrice has Lucina
come, and again and yet again visited thy dutiful

intravit repetita larem. sic fertilis, oro,
 stet domus et donis numquam mutata sacratis.
 macte, quod et proles tibi saepius aucta virili 25
 robore, sed iuveni laetanda et¹ virgo parenti
 —aptior his virtus, citius dabit illa nepotes—,
 qualis maternis Helene iam digna palaestris
 inter Amyclaeos reptabat candida fratres ;
 vel qualis caeli facies, ubi nocte serena 30
 admovere iubar mediae duo sidera lunae.

Sed queror haud faciles, iuvenum rarissime, questus
 irascorque etiam, quantum irascuntur amantes.
 tantane me decuit vulgari gaudia fama
 noscere ? cumque tibi vagiret tertius infans, 35
 protinus ingenti non venit nuntia cursu
 littera, quae festos cumulare altaribus ignes
 et redimire chelyn postesque ornare iuberet
 Albanoque cadum sordentem promere fumo
 et cantu signare diem, sed tardus inersque 40
 nunc demum mea vota cano ? tua culpa tuusque
 hic pudor. ulterius sed enim producere questus
 non licet ; en hilaris circumstat turba tuorum
 defensatque patrem. quem non hoc agmine vincas ?

Di patrii, quos auguriis super aequora magnis 45
 litus ad Ausonium devexit Abantia classis,
 tu, ductor populi longe migrantis, Apollo,
 cuius adhuc volucrem laeva cervice sedentem
 respiciens blande felix Eumelis adorat,

¹ laetanda et *Vollmer* : letam dat *M*, laetandast *Baehrens*.

^a *i.e.*, for the wrestling-bouts in Sparta, the home of Leda, in which the Spartan girls took part. Statius probably has Propertius in. 14 in mind.

^b According to Homer the Abantes inhabited Euboea.

^c *i.e.*, Parthenope, daughter of Eumelus (who was perhaps the warrior at Troy so-called, the son of Admetus) ; she was

home. Long live that house, I pray, in fruitfulness and never robbed of its hallowed gifts! A blessing on thee also, that thy issue was increased more often by the strength of males, yet the girl too must needs delight her youthful father—for them is prowess more fitting, while she will the sooner bear him grandsons;—so fair a child was Helen, as she walked between her Amyclaeon brethren, yet ripe already for her mother's wrestling-bouts;^a so fair is the face of heaven, when on a tranquil night two radiant stars draw near to the moon that shines between them.

But I have a complaint, O rarest of youths, and no gentle one, ay, angry am I even, so far as love admits of anger. Was it right that common report should tell me of such joys? and when thy third infant was wailing, did no letter straightway haste full speed to bid me heap the altar with festal flames and entwine my lyre and wreath my portals, and bring out a cask sooted with Alban smoke and mark the day with song, but only now, a tardy laggard, do I celebrate my vows? Thine is the fault, thine is the shame of it! But I cannot further prolong my plaint; lo! in a merry crowd thy children surround thee, and defend their sire. Whom wouldst thou not conquer with such a troop?

Gods of our land, whom with mighty omens the Abantian^b fleet conveyed o'er the sea to the Ausonian shore, and thou, Apollo, guide of thy far-wandering folk, whose bird seated on thy left shoulder prosperous Eumelis^c lovingly beholds and worships, and thou,

guided to Italy by a dove sent by Apollo, *cf.* iii. 5. 80. The reference is to the founding of Cumae by emigrants from Chalcis in Euboea, who probably brought with them the deities mentioned here, Apollo, Ceres, Castor and Pollux.

STATIUS

tuque, Actaea¹ Ceres, cursu cui semper anhelus 50
 votivam taciti quassamus lampada mystae,
 et vos, Tyndaridae, quos non horrenda Lycurgi
 Taygeta umbrosaeque magis coluere Therapnae :
 hos cum plebe sua, patri,² servate penates.
 sint, qui fessam aevo crebrisque laboribus urbem 55
 voce opibusque iuvent viridique in nomine servant.
 his placidos genitor mores largumque nitorem
 monstret avus, pulchrae studium virtutis uterque.
 quippe et opes et origo sinunt hanc³ lampade prima
 patricias intrare fores, hos pube sub ipsa, 60
 si modo prona bonis invicti Caesaris adsint
 numina, Romulei limen pulsare senatus.

IX. HENDECASYLLABI IOCOSI AD PLOTIUM GRYPUM

Est sane iocus iste, quod libellum
 misisti mihi, Grype, pro libello.
 urbanum tamen hoc potest videri,
 si post hoc aliquid mihi remittas ;
 nam si ludere, Grype, perseveras, 5
 non ludis. licet, ecce, computemus !
 noster purpureus novusque charta
 et binis decoratus umbilicis,

¹ Actaea *Pol.* : acea *M.*

² patrii *M.* : patriae *Gronovius.*

³ hanc *Gevart* : hac *M.*

^a There was a worship of Demeter at Naples, and mysteries no doubt like those of Eleusis.

^b One at each end of the stick on which the paper was rolled.

Attic Ceres, for whom in breathless dance we thy mute votaries cease not to wave the mystic torch,^a and you, ye Tyndarids, to whom not grim Taygetus, Lycurgus' mount, nor shady Therapnae gives truer worship : gods of our country, preserve this home with all its souls ! May there be those who by speech or wealth shall succour their city that age and many toils have wearied, and keep her as green and youthful as her name ! From their father may they learn gentle ways, and from their grandsire splendour that yet is bountiful, and from both the desire of glorious virtue. Assuredly their riches and their birth suffer the maid to enter patrician doors with the first marriage-torches, and the sons, so soon as manhood comes—if only the godhead of invincible Caesar favour the deserving—to tread the threshold of the Senate-house of Romulus.

IX. LINES WRITTEN IN JEST TO PLOTIUS GRYPUS

The subject suggests Catullus, xiv. 12. Statius rebukes Plotius Grypus for giving him an unworthy present in return for a fine one. The hendecasyllable was a favourite metre for comic or gibing verse.

Yours was indeed a jest, Grypus, to send me a book in return for a book ! And yet even that may seem graceful, if after it you send me something worth having ; for if, Grypus, you keep on with such jests, they are jests no longer. Look, we can reckon the account. Mine, painted purple, its paper new, adorned with two knobs,^b cost me, besides my

STATIUS

praeter me mihi constitit decussis ¹ :	
tu rosum tineis situque putrem,	10
quales aut Libycis madent olivis	
aut tus Niliacum piperve servant	
aut Byzantiacos colunt ² lacertos,	
nec saltē tua dicta continentem,	
quae trino iuvenis foro tonabas,	15
aut centum prope iudices, priusquam	
te Germanicus arbitrum sequenti	
annonae dedit omniumque late	
praefecit stationibus viarum,	
sed Bruti senis oscitationes	20
de capsā miseri libellionis	
emptum plus minus asse Gaiano,	
donas. usque adeone defuerunt	
caesis pillea suta de lacernis	
vel mantelia luridaeve mappae,	25
chartae, Thebaicaeve Caricaeve ?	
nusquam turbine conditus ruenti	
prunorum globus atque cottanorum ?	
non enlychnia sicca, non replictae	
bulborum tunicae ? nec ova tantum	30

¹ decussus *M* : decussi *Turnebus*.

² colunt *M* : olent *Heinsius*.

^a Roman, Julian, and Augustan. Courts of law were often situated in the buildings of the "fora."

^b See iv. 4. 43 n. It usually sat in the Basilica Julia, in the Forum Romanum.

^c It is a question whether these are two posts or one; if the former, they would be the prefectship of the corn-supply, and supervision of the relay-stations on the great highways; if the latter, it has been suggested that the post was one of organizing supplies for Domitian's last Dacian campaign, or, as Hirschfeld thinks, of commissariat officer

own trouble, well, certainly a ten-as piece ! Yours, moth-eaten and mouldering, like those that are soaked by Libyan olives, or wrap up incense or pepper from the Nile, or cultivate the Byzantine tunny ; not containing even your own youthful speeches that you thundered at the three Courts ^a or the Hundred Judges, ^b before Germanicus placed the obedient corn-supply under your control, or put you in charge of the posts on all the roads, ^c but the mumblings of ancient Brutus ^d out of a wretched book-peddler's case, that cost you, roughly shall we say, an as of Gaius ^e—that was your present ! Were there then no more felt caps stitched together from rags of tunics, no towels or faded napkins ? no writing-paper, or Theban dates, or Carian figs ? nowhere a bunch of plums or Syrian figs packed in a collapsible case ^f ? no dry wicks or cast-off jackets of onions ?

for Domitian when on the march ("sequenti" might support this).

^a The friend of Cicero and murderer of Caesar. "senis," because he dates so long back.

^e The Emperor Gaius had debased the coinage.

^f Apparently a cone-shaped case ("turbo" is commonly used of objects so shaped, *e.g.* a top), "ruenti" suggests that the contents could easily be upset into the purchaser's bag ; at any rate it would be a purely temporary receptacle, which is the point here ; a paper bag, or paper screw would be the modern equivalent. Vollmer compares Mart. xiii. 25 (of a packet of pine-cones), "*poma sumus Cybeles : procul hinc discede viator, ne cadat in miserum nostra ruina caput.*" The "torta meta" in which "cottana" were packed, Mart. xiii. 28, may also be compared. "Cottana" were smaller than ordinary figs ; as Mart. says, "*si maiora forent cottana, ficus erat.*" The reader may also be referred to Martial's 13th book, in which a large number of Xenia, or presents for the Saturnalia, are described, each in a couplet ; *e.g.* incense (4), figs (23), cheeses (30-33), sausage (35), etc.

STATIUS

nec lenes¹ halicae nec asperum far ?
 nusquam Cinyphiis vagata campis
 curvarum domus uda coclearum ?
 non lardum grave debilisve perna ?
 non lucanica, non graves falsci, 35
 non sal oxyporumve caseusve,
 aut panes viridantis aphronitri
 vel passum psithiis suis recoctum,
 dulci defruta vel lutosa caeno ?
 quantum nec dare cereos olentes, 40
 cultellum² tenuesve codicillos ?
 ollares, rogo, non licebat uvas,
 Cumano patinas in orbe tortas
 aut unam dare synthesin—quid horres ?—
 alborum calicum atque caccaborum ? 45
 sed certa velut aequus in statera,
 nil mutas, sed idem mihi rependis.
 quid si, cum bene mane semicrudus
 inlatam³ tibi dixero salutem,
 et tu me vicibus domi salutes ? 50
 aut, cum me dape iuveris opima,
 exspectes similes et ipse cenas ?
 irascor tibi, Grype. sed valebis ;
 tantum ne mihi, quo soles lepore,
 et nunc hendecasyllabos remittas. 55

¹ lenes *Heinsius* : leves *M.*

² cultellum *Σ* : cutellum *M* : scutellum *Slater*.

³ inlatam *M* : inlotam *Scrivenerius*.

no eggs even, or fine flour, or coarse spelt? not the slimy shell of a curving snail that had strayed far on the Cinyphian plains? ^a no rancid fat or gristly ham? no sausage, no tough haggis? no salt, no pickle, no cheese? or cakes of green saltpetre? or raisin-wine boiled grapes and all? or must made muddy by sweet lees? How unkind, not to give me smelly candles, or a knife, or a tiny notebook! Pray, could you not have sent some tinned grapes, or some plates turned on the wheel at Cumae? ^b or even one set ^c—why do you start?—of white cups and pots? No, like a fair dealer with a correct scale, you dock nothing, but give me exactly equal weight. But look! I get up betimes, feeling rather queasy, and bring you my morning greeting: are you to return it at my house? you have regaled me with a luxurious feast: do you expect a similar repast yourself? I am angry with you, Grypus! However, farewell! only do not with your usual wit send me back gibing verses by return of post!

^a *i.e.*, African snails, which were often shell-less.

^b The cheapest kind of pottery was that of Cumae.

^c The point of this is that "synthesis" can also mean a set of wearing-apparel, usually of a costly kind, as in Mart. ii. 46. 4.

LIBER V

STATIUS ABASCANTO SUO SALUTEM

Omnibus affectibus prosequenda sunt bona exempla, cum publice prosint. Pietas, quam Priscillae tuae praestas, et morum tuorum pars et nulli non conciliare te, praecipue marito, potest. Uxorem enim vivam amare voluptas est, defunctam religio. Ego tamen huic operi non ut unus e turba nec tantum quasi officiosus adsilui. Amavit enim uxorem meam Priscilla et amando fecit mihi illam probatorem; post hoc ingratus sum, si lacrimas tuas transeo. Praeterea latus omne divinae domus semper demereri pro mea mediocritate conitor. Nam qui bona fide deos colit, amat et sacerdotes. Sed quamvis propiorem usum¹ amicitiae tuae iampridem cuperem, mallem tamen nondum invenisse materiam.

¹ usum *Pol.*: visum *M.*

^a "latus" here means those who are "a latee principis," see note on iii. 3. 65, and *cf.* v. 1. 187, and for different uses v. 1. 80, iii. 3. 120.

^b The reference is, of course, to the Imperial House.

^c He seems to mean that the death of Priscilla had drawn Abascantus and himself closer together. Vollmer, however,

BOOK V

STATIUS TO HIS FRIEND ABASCANTUS : GREETING !

Good examples should be whole-heartedly honoured, since they are publicly beneficial. The devotion which you show to your Priscilla is a true part of your character, and must needs win you the affection of all, especially of a husband. For to love a wife is a joy, while she is alive, and a religion, when she is departed. It was not, however, as a mere stranger that I undertook this task, nor only with the readiness of one bound by ties of duty. For Priscilla loved my wife, and by that love made her more worthy in my eyes ; after that it were ingratitude in me to take no notice of your grief. Further, I always strive, insignificant as I am, to deserve well of all adherents of the Sacred Palace.^a For he who in good faith worships the gods, loves their priests also.^b But although I had long desired a more intimate experience of your friendship,^c yet I would rather the occasion had not come so soon.

understands by the phrase, "a more intimate *use* of your friendship," an opportunity of dedicating a poem to one in so high a position.

I. EPICEDION IN PRISCILLAM

Si manus aut similes docilis mihi fingere ceras
aut ebur impressis aurumve animare figuris,
hinc, Priscilla, tuo solacia grata marito
conciperem. namque egregia pietate meretur,
ut vel Apelleo vultus signata colore, 5
Phidiaca vel nata manu reddare dolenti.
sic auferre rogis umbram conatur et ingens
certamen cum Morte gerit curasque fatigat
artificum inque omni te quaerit amare metallo.
sed mortalis honos, agilis quem dextra laborat. 10
nos tibi, laudati iuvenis rarissima coniunx,
longa nec obscurum finem latura perenni
temptamus dare iusta lyra, modo dexter Apollo
quique venit iuncto mihi semper Apolline Caesar
annuat: haud alio melius condere sepulcro. 15

Sera quidem tanto struitur medicina dolori,
altera cum volucris Phoebi rota torqueat annum;
sed cum plaga recens et adhuc in vulnere primo
nigra¹ domus, miseram quis tunc² accessus ad aurem
coniugis orbat? tunc flere et scindere vestes 20
et famulos lassare greges et vincere planctus
Fataque et iniustos rabidis pulsare querelis
caelicolas solamen erat. licet ipse levandos

¹ nigra *M*: aegra *Heinsius*.

² miseram quis tunc *Phillimore*: quaestu miseramque
M: questu miseram qui *Macnaghten*: quis tum miserandam
Adrian.

^a The allusion is to the struggle of Hercules with Death for Alcestis: here the husband strives to rescue his wife from death by making a living image of her. Priscilla's body was not burnt, but embalmed, and placed in a shrine, such as Cicero wished to build for his daughter Tullia (*Ad Att.* xii. 19) Poppaea, too, was embalmed (*Tac. Ann.* xvi. 6).

I. A POEM OF CONSOLATION ON THE
DEATH OF PRISCILLA

Priscilla was the wife of Abascantus, who held the important post of Secretary of State to Domitian. This epicedion follows the usual lines of such poems, see Introd. to II. 1.

Had I but skill of hand to mould likenesses in wax or to leave a living impress upon gold or ivory, thence would I imagine, Priscilla, a grateful solace for thy husband. For his conspicuous devotion merits that thou thyself, whether painted by Apelles' brush or given life by Phidian art, shouldst be brought back to calm his grief; so valiantly strives he to rescue thy ghost from the pyre, and wages a mighty struggle with Death,^a and exhausts the cunning of the craftsmen, and in every metal would fain show his love of thee. But mortal is the honour that toil of clever hands can pay: 'tis the poet's endeavour to bring thee, peerless consort of a youth renowned, a tribute that will endure nor suffer oblivion at the last, the due offering of eternal song, if only Apollo be propitious, and Caesar, who ever in Apollo's company aids me, gives assent; no other nobler sepulchre wilt thou find.

Late indeed is the balm composed for so great a sorrow, when yet once more the wheels of Phoebus are bringing round the year; but when the stroke is recent and the house still sable-clad in the first shock of woe, what access then to the poor husband in his loss? Then were it solace enough to weep and tear the rament, to fatigue troops of slaves and outdo their lamentations, to assail the Fates and an unjust heaven with wild and frenzied cries. Though

STATIUS

ad gemitus silvis comitatus et amnibus Orpheus
 adforet atque omnis pariter matertera vatem, 25
 omnis Apollineus tegeret Bacchique sacerdos :
 nil cantus, nil fila deis pallentis Averni
 Eumenidumque audita comis mulcere valerent :
 tantus in attonito regnabat pectore luctus !
 nunc etiam ad planctus refugit iam plana cicatrix, 30
 dum canimus, gravibusque oculis uxorius instat
 imber. habentne pios etiamnum haec lumina fletus ?
 mira fides ! citius genetrix Sipyleia fertur¹
 exhausisse genas, citius Tithonida maesti
 deficient rores aut exsatiata fatiscet 35
 mater Achilleis hiemes adfrangere bustis.
 macte animi ! notat ista deus, qui flectit habenas
 orbis et humanos propior Iove digerit actus,
 maerentemque videt ; lectique arcana ministri !
 hinc etiam documenta capit, quod diligit umbram 40
 et colis exsequias. hic est castissimus ardor,
 hic amor a domino meritis censore probari.

Nec mirum, si vos collato pectore mixtos
 iunxit inabrupta Concordia longa catena.
 illa quidem nuptumque prior taedasque marito 45
 passa alio, sed te ceu virginitate iugatum
 visceribus totis animaque amplexa fovebat ;
 qualiter aequaevo sociatam palmite vitem
 ulmus amat miscetque nemus ditemque precatur
 autumnum et caris gaudet redimita racemis. 50

¹ Sipyleia fertur S : si peleia fertur M : Sipyleia feretur *Heinsius*.

^a Niobe, Aurora (for her son Memnon) and Thetis.

^b The reference no doubt is to Domitian's activities as Censor Morum.

Orpheus himself with woods and streams for company came to assuage thy groans, though all his mother's sisters and every priest of Bacchus and Apollo sustained the minstrel, yet nought would avail to give relief, not music, not those strings whereto the gods of pale Avernus and the Furies' locks paid heed : such anguish held sway in his distracted heart. Even now does the scar though smooth yet wince at my lament, and the rain of a husband's love forces itself into those burdened eyes. E'en yet do those orbs hold pious drops ? O marvellous truth ! Sooner, as they say, does the Sipylean dame drain dry her tears, or the dews of sorrow fail Tithonia, or Achilles' mother grow weary and sated of breaking her wild waves against his tomb.^a Bless thy passionate soul ! the god who holds the reins of earth, he who nearer than Jove directs the doings of mankind—he marks thee and beholds thy grief ; and hence also doth he take secret knowledge of his chosen minister, because thou lovest her shade and honourest her in death. Here is a zeal that is pure indeed, a passion that merits the praise of thy keen-searching lord.^b

Yet 'tis no wonder, if long-enduring Harmony bound you by an unbroken chain in the close union of heart with heart. She indeed had known a former husband and the torches of earlier wedlock, yet did she embrace and cherish thee with all her soul and inmost being, as though she were a virgin bride ; even so does the elm love the clinging tendrils of the coeval vine, and mingles with its foliage and prays that autumn may bring it richness and rejoices in its dear entwining clusters. Women who lack the

STATIUS

laudantur proavis seu¹ pulchrae munere formae,
 quae morum caruere bonis, falsoque² potentes
 laudis egent verae . tibi quamquam et origo niteret
 et felix species multumque optanda maritis,
 ex te maior honos, unum novisse cubile, 55
 unum secretis agitare sub ossibus ignem.
 illum nec Phrygius vitiasset raptor amorem
 Dulichive proci nec qui fraternus adulter
 casta Mycenaeo conubia polluit auro.
 si Babylonos opes, Lydae si pondera gazae 60
 Indorumque dares Serumque Arabumque potentes
 divitias, mallet cum paupertate pudica
 intemerata mori vitamque rependere famae.
 nec frons triste rigens nimiusque in moribus horror,
 sed simplex hilarisque fides et mixta pudori 65
 gratia. quod si anceps metus ad maiora vocasset,
 illa vel armiferas pro coniuge laeta catervas
 fulmineosque ignes mediiue pericula ponti
 exciperet. melius, quod non adversa probarunt,
 quae tibi cura tori, quantus pro coniuge pallor ! 70
 sed meliore via dextros tua vota marito
 promeruere deos, dum nocte dieque fatigas
 numina, dum cunctis supplex advolveris aris
 et mitem genum domini praesentis adoras.
 audita es, venitque gradu Fortuna benigno. 75
 vidit quippe pii iuvenis navamque quietem
 intactamque fidem succinctaque pectora curis
 et vigiles sensus et digna evolvere tantas

¹ proavis seu *S* : proavi seu *M* (*Imhof keeps this and reads munera*) : proavis aut *Heinsius*.

² falsoque *M* : falsaeque *Heinsius*.

^a "potentes," occasionally used in Statius = "great," "important," cf. i. 61, "divitias p." = "lordly wealth," and v. 2. 29.

graces of the soul are praised for ancestry or gift of loveliness; and falsely great they lack a true renown;^a but though a brilliant lineage was thine, and the blessing of a beauty that husbands would prize, yet thy own boast is prouder, that thou knewest but one bed, didst feed but one passion in thy secret heart. That love no Phrygian ravisher would have outraged, no Dulichian suitors, nor that adulterer who polluted his brother's innocent spouse with Mycenaean gold.^b Ay, did you offer the riches of Babylon or weight of Lydian treasure or the lordly wealth of Ind or Araby or China, she had preferred to die poor in untainted chastity, and given her life to save her honour. Yet was there no forbidding sternness in her look, nor o'ermuch austerity in her ways, but a gay and simple loyalty, and modesty blent with charm. Yet if some dread crisis had summoned her to harder tasks, gladly would she have borne on her lord's behalf the assault of armed bands or the lightning's stroke or the perils of mid-ocean. Happier was thy fate, that adversity ne'er proved how true thy devotion, how great thy anxiety for thy spouse. Ay, happier was thy path, and thy prayers merited heaven's favour for thy husband, while day and night thou didst weary the gods, and lie prostrate at every altar and adore the present godhead of our gentle lord. Thy prayers were heard, and Fortune came with favouring step. For *he* beheld the quiet industry, the unsullied devotion of a loyal youth, whose mind was busy with schemes, whose alert intelligence and sober judgement were

^b Paris, the wooers of Penelope, Thyestes who seduced Aérope the wife of Atreus.

sobria corda vices, vidit, qui cuncta suorum
 novit et inspectis ambit latus omne ministris. 80
 nec mirum : videt ille ortus obitusque, quid auster,¹
 quid boreas hibernus agat, ferrique togaeque²
 consilia atque ipsam mentem probat. ille subactis³
 molem immensam umeris et vix tractabile pondus⁴
 imposuit—nec enim numerosior altera sacra 85
 cura domo—, magnum late dimittere in orbem
 Romulei mandata ducis viresque modosque
 imperii tractare manu ; quae laurus ab arcto,
 quid vagus Euphrates, quid ripa binominis Histri,
 quid Rheni vexilla ferant, quantum ultimus orbis 90
 cesserit et refugo circumsona gurgite Thyle—
 omnia nam laetas pila attollentia frondes,
 nullaue famosa signatur lancea penna—
 praeterea, fidos dominus si dividat enses,
 pandere quis centum valeat frenare, maniplos 95
 inter missus eques,⁵ quis praecepisse cohorti,
 quem deceat clari praestantior ordo tribuni,
 quisnam frenigeræ signum dare dignior alae ;
 mille etiam praeosse vices, an merserit agros

¹ auster 5 · arctos *M*.

² togaeque *Dom.* : rotagae *M*.

³ subactis *Avantius* : iubatis *M* : probatis *Krohn*.

⁴ pondus *Avantius* : tempus *M*. *Phillimore* suspects damage to archetype at the ends of these four lines.

⁵ maniplos intermissus eques *M* : manipulis intermixtus equos *Salmasius* : maniplo intermissus eques *Madvig*.

^a " A laurel fastened to the dispatch was the sign of news of victory, but a feather—the sign of haste—marked the bearer of disastrous news. . . . The greatness and sureness of the Imperial organization is exemplified in the fact that the news of defeat or danger was urgent and hurried, while that of victory was not." A. M. Ramsay, *Journal of Roman Studies*, xv. Pt. 1, p. 66. He also quotes Juv. iv. 147-9, where the point is the same.

fitted to unravel the skein of circumstance—he saw, who knows the hearts of all his subjects, and with well-trying servants guards safely every quarter. Nor is that wonderful: he scans the East and the West, he knows what the South and what the wintry North is doing, and puts sword and gown to the proof, ay, the very heart itself. He placed upon those bowed shoulders a mighty burden, a weight scarce tolerable—no duties more manifold does the Sacred Palace know—to send far and wide into the great world the commands of the Roman Prince, to handle all the powers and modes of empire; to learn what laurelled message comes from the North, what news from wandering Euphrates or from the bank of twy-named Ister or from the standards of the Rhine, how much we have won of the world's end or of Thule round which the tidal waters roar—for every spear raises joyous leaves on high,^a and no lance is marked with the feather of ill-report; moreover, should the Master distribute loyal swords,^b to make known who suffices to control a century, a knight sent among the companies of foot, who to command a cohort, whom the more excellent rank of illustrious tribune befits, who is suited rather to give orders to a cavalry troop; again, to anticipate a thousand chances, whether Nile has drenched his fields, whether Libya has been

^b These, according to Madvig, *Opusc.* i. 39, are the four military appointments open to knights in ascending order: i. Primipilus, or Senior Centurion (“maniplos inter missus eques,” shows that something more than the ordinary centurionship is intended); ii. Praefectus cohortis; iii. Tribunus legionis; iv. Praefectus equitum. The higher appointments were made “per epistolam sacram Imperatoris,” see Veget. ii. 7. Cf. v. 12. 65 n.

Nilus, an imbrifero Libye sudaverit austro ; 100
 cunctaque si numerem, non plura interprete virga
 nuntiat ex celsis ales Tegeaticus astris
 quaeque cadit liquidas Iunonia virgo per auras
 et picturato pluvium ligat aera gyro
 quaeque tuas laurus volucris, Germanice, cursu 105
 Fama vehit praegressa diem tardumque sub astris
 Arcada et in medio linquit Thaumantida caelo.

Qualem te superi, Priscilla, hominesque benigno
 aspexere die, cum primum ingentibus actis
 admotus coniunx ! vicisti gaudia paene¹ 110
 ipsius, effuso dum pectore prona sacratos
 ante pedes avidae domini tam magna merentis
 volveris. Aonio non sic in vertice gaudet,
 quam pater arcani praefecit hiatibus antri
 Delius, aut primi cui ius venerabile thyrsi 115
 Bacchus et attonitae tribuit vexilla catervae.
 nec tamen hinc mutata quies probitasve secundis
 intumuit : tenor idem animo moresque modesti
 fortuna crescente manent. fovet anxia curas
 coniugis hortaturque simul flectitque labores. 120
 ipsa dapes modicas et sobria pocula tradit,
 exemplumque ad erile monet ; velut Apula comunx
 agricolae parci vel sole infecta Sabina,
 quae videt emeriti iam prospectantibus astris
 tempus adesse viri, propere mensasque torosque 125
 instruit exspectatque sonum redeuntis aratri.
 parva loquor. tecum gelidas comes illa per arctos
 Sarmaticasque hiemes Histrumque et pallida Rheni

¹ paene *Burmann* : cene *M*, certe *Markland*.

^a Mercury and Iris, as in ll. 102-3.

^b The Pythian priestess and the leader of a Bacchic revel.

moistened by Southern rains ; were I to count all his labours, no more numerous are the messages that the winged Tegean with revealing wand bears from the stars on high, or Juno's maid, who glides down through the liquid air and binds her pictured arc about the rainy sky, or Fame, who brings thy laurels, O Germanicus, in her swift flight outstripping the day, and leaves the slow Arcadian beneath the stars and Thaumantia in mid-heaven.^a

How joyful, Priscilla, wert thou seen of gods and men on that auspicious day when first thy spouse was promoted to his great career ! Almost did thy happiness surpass his own, while thou didst eagerly fling thyself prostrate before the sacred feet of thy lord for his great favour, and pour out all thy heart. Not such joy doth she know upon the Aonian mount whom the Delian sire hath put in charge of the openings of the mystic cave, or she to whom Bacchus hath awarded the dread privilege of the foremost wand, and to bear the banner of the frenzied rout.^b Yet was her tranquillity not changed, nor her goodness puffed up by prosperity ; her mind keeps the same course, and her modesty abides, though her fortunes rise. Anxiously she tends her husband's cares, and cheers and alleviates his toils. Herself she serves his modest board and sober cups, and admonishes him by the example of his chief ; just as the Apulian wife of some thrifty husbandman, or sun-burnt Sabine dame, who sees by the peeping stars that her lord will soon be come, his labours o'er, briskly sets the tables and the couches, and listens for the returning plough. I speak of trivial things : nay, at thy side she had willingly braved the gelid North and Sarmatian snows and Ister and the pale

STATIUS

frigora, tecum omnes animo durata per aestus
 et, si castra darent, vellet gestare pharetras, 130
 vellet Amazonia latus intercludere pelta ;
 dum te pulvereâ bellorum nube¹ videret
 Caesarei prope fulmen equi divinaque tela
 vibrantem et magnae sparsum sudoribus hastae.

Hactenus alma chelys. tempus nunc ponere
 frondes, 135

Phoebe, tuas maestaque comam damnare cupresso.
 quisnam impacata consanguinitate ligavit
 Fortunam Invidiamque deus ? quis iussit iniquas
 aeternum bellare deas ? nullamne notabit
 illa domum, torvo quam non haec lumine figat 140
 protinus et saeva proturbet gaudia dextra ?
 florebant hilares inconcussique penates :
 nil maestum. quid enim, quamvis infida levisque,
 Caesare tam dextro posset Fortuna timeri ?
 invenere viam liventia Fata, piumque 145
 intravit vis saeva larem. sic plena maligno
 adflantur vineta noto, sic alta senescit
 imbre seges nimio, rapidae sic obvia puppi
 invidet et velis adnubilat aura secundis.
 carpitur eximium Fato Priscilla decorem ; 150
 qualiter alta comam silvarum gloria pinus
 seu Iovis igne malo seu iam radice soluta
 deficit et nulli spoliata remurmurat aurae.
 quid probitas aut casta fides, quid numina prosunt
 culta deum ? furvae miseram circum undique leti
 vallavere plagae, tenduntur dura sororum 156
 licia et exacti superest pars ultima fili.

¹ pulvereâ b. nube *M* : pulvereum *Baehrens* : in nube *edd.*

frosts of Rhine, at thy side steeled her courage throughout summer heats and gladly borne the quiver, did the camp permit, and gladly shielded her body with an Amazonian targe—so but she might see thee in the dust-clouds of battle hard by the Emperor's thundering steed, brandishing godlike shafts and bedewed with the sweat of his great spear.

So far my lyre has been propitious ; but now it is time to doff thy bays, O Phoebus, and doom my tresses to sad cypress-leaves. What god joined Fortune and Envy in truceless kinship ? who bade the cruel goddesses engage in unending war ? Will the one set her mark upon no house, but the other must straightway fix it with her grim glance, and with savage hand make havoc of its gladness ? Happy and prosperous was this abode, no shock assailed it, no thought of sorrow ; what cause was there to have fear of Fortune, treacherous and fickle though she be, while Caesar was favourable ? yet the jealous Fates found a way, and barbarous violence entered that blameless home. So do the laden vineyards feel the deadly sirocco's blast, so rots the high corn with too much rain, so does the air envy the rapid craft it meets, and gathers storm-clouds about its prosperous sails. Fate plucks away the peerless beauty of Priscilla : just as the lofty pine, the glory of the woodland, is wasted of its foliage, be it by fell fire of Jove or that its roots are loosened, and so despoiled answers no more the whispering breeze. What avails goodness, or chaste loyalty, or worship paid to heaven ? The dark snares of death encompassed around the wretched woman, the Sisters' ruthless threads are tightened, and there abides but the last portion of the exhausted

STATIUS

nil famuli coetus, nil ars operosa medentum
 auxiliata malis ; comites tamen undique ficto
 spem simulant vultu, flentem notat illa maritum.
 ille modo infernae nequiquam flumina Lethes 161
 incorrupta rogat, nunc anxius omnibus aris
 inlacrimat signatque fores et pectore terget
 lumina ; nunc magni vocat exorabile numen
 Caesaris. heu durus fati tenor ! estne quod illi 165
 non liceat ? quantae poterant mortalibus annis
 accessisse morae, si tu, pater, omne teneres
 arbitrium ? caeco gemeret Mors clusa barathro
 longius et vacuae posuissent stamina Parcae.

Iamque cadunt vultus oculisque novissimus error
 obtunsaeque aures, nisi cum vox sola mariti 171
 noscitur ; illum unum media de morte reversa
 mēns videt, illum aegris circumdat fortiter ulnis
 immotas obversa genas, nec sole supremo
 lumina, sed dulci mavult satiare marito. 175
 tum sic unanimum moriens solatur amantem :
 “ pars animae victura meae, cui linquere possim
 o utinam, quos dura mihi rapit Atropos, annos :
 parce, precor, lacrimis, saevo ne concute planctu
 pectora, nec crucia fugientem coniugis umbram. 180
 linquo equidem thalamos, salvo tamen ordine mortis,¹
 quod prior : exegi longa potiora senecta
 tempora ; vidi omni pridem te flore nitentem,
 vidi altae propius propiusque accedere dextrae.
 non in te fatis, non iam caelestibus ullis 185

¹ mortis 5 : mostis *M* : mestos *Pol.* (*marg. note in Ex. Cors.*) : noctis *Ed. Prin.* : maestos *Phillimore.*

^a *i.e.*, of the Emperor.

span. No succour could crowds of slaves bring her in her distress, nor the physicians' toilsome art; yet while friends on every side feign looks of hopefulness, she marks her husband weeping. He now implores in vain Lethe's inexorable stream, now sheds anxious tears at every shrine and leaves his imprint at the gates and flings himself down upon the threshold, now calls upon Caesar's merciful deity. Alas! the cruel course of Fate! is there then aught that Caesar may not do? What tarrying could there have come to mortal lives, if thou, O Sire, hadst been all-powerful! far away would Death be groaning, imprisoned in the unseeing pit, and the idle Fates would have laid their spinning down.

And now her face falls, her eyes take their last wavering glances, and the hearing of the ears is dulled, save when only she recognizes her husband's voice; him only does her mind returning from the midst of death perceive, him with faint arms does she bravely grasp, turning to him her stiffened cheeks, nor wishes to sate her eyes with the last glimpse of light, but only with her dear spouse. Then dying she thus consoles the loving heart that was one with hers: "O thou, my soul's still-surviving half, to whom I would fain leave the years that cruel Atropos takes from me, spare thy tears, I pray, beat not thy breast with savage lament, nor vex thy consort's fleeing spirit. I leave, 'tis true, a marriage-bower, yet in the due order of dying, because I die the first; better the life I have lived than a long old age; I have seen thee in the full splendour of thy fame, I have seen thee draw nearer and more near to the right hand on high.^a No fate, no god has power over thee now; I take with me

STATIUS

arbitrium : mecum ista fero. tu limite coepto
 tende libens sacrumque latus genumque potentem
 inquietus ama. nunc, quod cupis ipse iuberi,
 da Capitolinis aeternum sedibus aurum,
 quo niteat sacri centeno pondere vultus 190
 Caesaris et propriae signet cultriciis amorem
 sic ego nec Furias nec deteriora videbo
 Tartara et Elysias felix admittar in oras.”
 haec dicit labens sociosque amplectitur artus
 haerentemque animam non tristis in ora mariti 195
 transtulit et cara pressit sua lumina dextra.

At iuvenis magno flammatus pectora luctu
 nunc implet saevo viduos clamore penates,
 nunc ferrum laxare cupit, nunc ardua tendit
 in loca—vix retinent comites—, nunc ore ligato 200
 incubat amissae mersumque in corde dolorem
 saevus agit, qualis conspecta coniuge segnis¹
 Odrysius vates positus ad Strymona plectris
 obstupuit tristemque rogam sine carmine flevit.
 ille etiam erecte² rupisset tempora vitae, 205
 ne tu Tartareum chaos incommitata subires,
 sed prohibet mens fida ducis mirandaque sacris
 imperus et maior amor.

Quis carmine digno
 exsequias et dona malae feralia pompae
 perlegat ? omne illic stipatum examine longo 210
 ver Arabum Cilicumque fluit floresque Sabaei
 Indorumque arsura seges praereptaque templis

¹ conspecta coniuge segnis *M*: conspecto coniugis igni
Barth.

² erecte *M*: certe *5*: fractae *Imhof.*

^a Orpheus.

^b *i.e.*, of the Emperor himself.

their power to harm. Do thou go gladly on in the path thou hast entered, and love unfailingly the sacred presence, the spirit of our Prince. Now—a behest after thine own heart—give to the temple on the Capitol gold that endures for ever, that the countenance of sacred Caesar may gleam in a statue that weighs a hundred pounds, and prove his constant votary's love. So shall I behold neither Furies nor dire Tartarus, but be admitted, a blessed soul, to Elysian regions." Thus with failing strength she speaks, and clings to her consort's arms, and unrepining breathed out her lingering soul into her husband's lips, and closed her eyes with the hand she loved.

But the heart of her spouse was ablaze with passionate grief; now he fills the bereaved home with frenzied crying, now would fain set free the steel, now climbs to lofty heights—scarce can his friends restrain him—now broods o'er his lost one with mouth joined fast to mouth, and savagely excites the grief that is hidden in his heart: even as the Odrysian bard ^a seeing his wife's corpse fell dazed and horror-struck, and flinging down his quill on Strymon's bank in songless sorrow mourned the pyre. He too had courageously cut short the term of life, that thou shouldst not go unaccompanied to Tartarean gloom, but loyalty to his Prince forbids, loyalty that roused the wonder of the Sacred Monarch, and a yet greater love.^b

Who could recount in worthy song the obsequies and funeral gifts of that unhappy train? There heaped together in long array is all the liquid wealth of Arabian and Cilician springs, Sabaeen blooms and Indian produce destined for the flames, and incense,

STATIUS

tura Palaestinis, simul Hebraeique liquores
 Coryciaeque comae Cinyreaque germina ; et altis
 ipsa toris Serum Tyrioque umbrata recumbit 215
 tegmine. sed toto spectatur in agmine coniunx
 solus ; in hunc magnae flectuntur lumina Romae
 ceu iuvenes natos suprema ad busta ferentem :
 is dolor in vultu, tantum crinesque genaeque
 noctis habent. illam tranquillo fine solutam 220
 felicemque vocant, lacrimas fudere marito.

Est locus, ante urbem qua primum nascitur ingens
 Appia quaque Italo gemitus Almone Cybebe
 ponit et Idaeos iam non reminiscitur amnes.
 hic te Sidonio velatam molliter ostro 225
 eximius coniunx—nec enim fumantia busta
 clamoremque rogi potuit perferre—beato
 composuit, Priscilla, toro. nil longior aetas
 carpere, nil aevi poterunt vitare labores
 siccitam¹ membris : tantas venerabile marmor 230
 spirat opes. mox in varias mutata novaris
 effigies : hoc aere Ceres, hoc lucida Gnosis,
 illo Maia tholo,² Venus hoc non improba saxo.
 accipiunt vultus haud indignata decoros
 numina : circumstant famuli consuetaque turba 235
 obsequiis, tunc rite tori mensaeque parantur

¹ siccitam *5* : sic catum *M* : sic cautum *Phyllamore*.

² tholo *M* : polo, loco *edd.* : luto *Baehrens*.

^a *i.e.*, saffron (repeated from "ver Cilicum") and myrrh.

^b *i.e.*, his hair is dark with the dust and ashes poured upon it, his eyes with grief.

^c The reference is to the ceremonial washing of the image of Cybele, the Magna Mater, on March 27th in the river Almo, a small tributary of the Tiber.

^d See note on u. 7. 121. Statues representing various

spoil of Palestinian shrines, Hebrew essences withal and Corycian petals^a and Cinyrean buds; she herself reclines on a lofty couch of silk 'neath the shade of a Tyrian awning. But in all the concourse none looks but at the husband, on him is bent the gaze of mighty Rome, as though he were bearing youthful sons to burial: such grief in his looks, such darkness upon his hair^b and eyes. Her call they happy in her quiet and peaceful end, 'tis for the husband their tears are shed.

There is a spot before the city where the mighty Appian way has its first beginning, and Cybele lays aside her grief in Italian Almo,^c nor remembers the streams of Ida any more. Here thy peerless consort—for he could not bear the smoke of burning and the clamour of the pyre—laid thee, delicately arrayed in Sidonian purple, blissfully to rest. Length of years will have no power to harm thee, nor the labours of time to wither and mar thy limbs: such wealth of perfume does the venerable marble breathe. Soon art thou changed into manifold images^d and born anew: here art thou Ceres in bronze, here the bright Cretan maid,^e Maia beneath that dome, an innocent Venus in this marble. The deities scorn not to accept thy lovely features: attendants stand about thee, a multitude wont to obey; then couches and tables duly without ceasing.^f

goddesses with Priscilla's features were placed round about the sarcophagus ("marmor") containing her embalmed body.

^a Dictynna, *i.e.* Diana (*cf.* *Theb.* ix. 632); clearly not Ariadne.

^f Apparently to maintain the illusion of Priscilla being still alive, her embalmed body is surrounded by attendants, and couches and banquets are made ready for her.

assiduæ. domus ista, domus ! quis triste sepulcrum
dixerit ? hac merito visa pietate mariti
protinus exclames : “ est hic, agnosco, minister
illius, æternæ modo qui sacraria genti 240
condidit inque alio posuit sua sidera caelo.”

sic, ubi magna novum Phario de litore puppis
solvit iter iamque innumeros utrumque rudentes
lataque veliferi porrexit brachia mali
invasitque vias, it¹ eodem angusta phaselos 245
aequore et immensi partem sibi vindicat austri.

Quid nunc immodicos, iuvenum lectissime, fletus
corde foves longumque vetas exire dolorem ?
nempe times, ne Cerbereos Priscilla tremescat
latratus ? tacet ille piis ! ne tardior adsit 250

navita proturbetque vadis ? vehit ille merentes
protinus et manes placidus locat hospite cumba.
praeterea, si quando pio laudata marito
umbra venit, iubet ire faces Proserpina laetas
egressasque sacris veteres heroidas antris 255

lumine purpureo tristes laxare tenebras
sertaque et Elysios animæ præsternere flores.
sic manes Priscilla subit ; ibi supplice dextra
pro te Fata rogat, reges tibi tristis Averni
placat, ut expletis humani finibus ævi 260
pacantem terras dominum iuvenemque relinquant
ipse senex ! certæ iurant in vota sorores.

¹ it *Gevart* : in *M.*

^a See note on iv. 3. 19.

^b Egyptian.

A house hast thou there, a house ! Who would call it a gloomy sepulchre ? Justly would one exclaim, seeing the devotion of her spouse : “ Truly is he the minister of him who lately for his everlasting race founded a sacred shrine,^a and set his kindred stars in another heaven.” So when some great ship sets forth on a new voyage from the Pharian^b strand, and already has stretched out on either side a thousand ropes and the broad arms of her sail-bearing mast, and started on her way, some tiny pinnacle sails on the same sea, and claims her share of the limitless South wind.

Why now, choicest of youths, dost thou cherish sorrow in thy heart beyond due measure, nor suffer thy long grief to have an end ? Fearest thou lest Priscilla tremble at Cerberus’ howling ? he is silent for the blessed. Lest the sailor be slow to draw nigh her, or disturb her on the waters ? He conveys deserving souls forthwith, and quietly sets them in his welcoming craft. Moreover, whenever a shade approaches that has won the praise of a loving spouse, Proserpine bids summon joyful torches, and the heroines of old to come forth from hallowed bowers and scatter the shades of gloom in radiant light, and strew garlands and Elysian flowers before her. Thus doth Priscilla enter the kingdom of the dead ; there with suppliant hand she prays the Fates for thee, and placates the lords of grim Avernus, that having fulfilled the term of human life thou in old age mayst leave thy prince still giving peace to the world and still young ! The unfailing Sisters take oath to grant her prayers.

II. LAUDES CRISPINI VETTI BOLANI
FILII

Rura meus Tyrrhena petit saltusque Tagetis
Crispinus ; nec longa mora est aut avia tellus,
sed mea secreto velluntur pectora morsu,
udaque turgentes impellunt lumina guttas,
ceu super Aegaeas hiemes abeuntis amici 5
vela sequar spectemque ratem iam fessus ab altis
rupibus atque oculis longo querar aere vinci.

Quid ? si militiae iam te, puer inclite, primae
clara rudimenta et castrorum dulce vocaret
auspiciū, quanto manarent gaudia fletu 10
quosve darem amplexus ! etiamne optanda pro-
pinquis¹

tristia ? et² octonos bis iam tibi circuit orbes
vita, sed angustis animus robustior annis,
succumbitque oneri et mentem sua non capit aetas.
nec mirum : non te series inhonora parentum 15
obscurum proavis et priscae lucis egentem
plebeia de stirpe tulit ; non sanguine cretus
turmali trabeaque recens³ et paupere clavo

¹ propinquis 5 : propinqui *M* : et iamne . . . propinquas
Phillimore.

² et 5 : ut *M*.

³ trabeaque recens *Krohn* : trabeque et remis *M* : trabeaque
Remi nec *Lipsius*.

^a An Etruscan, the founder of the art of the " haruspices " (see Ovid, *Met.* xv. 553).

^b i.e., " must they be glad and proud at his going to war, while they grieve to lose him ? "

^c The " trabea " was a toga marked by purple horizontal stripes ; originally royal, it was worn by knights on certain occasions, and so became regarded as a knightly badge.

II. THE PRAISES OF CRISPINUS, SON OF
VETTIUS BOLANUS

A letter of congratulation and good wishes to Crispinus, a lad of sixteen, just appointed military tribune. The announcement of this appointment is kept back till the end of the poem, the opening lines referring to a holiday taken by the boy shortly before that event, but is anticipated throughout. His father was a celebrated officer named Bolanus, who had served with distinction in Asia Minor, Armenia, and Scotland.

My Crispinus is off to Etruscan fields and the glades of Tages ;^a not for long is his sojourning, nor distant the land, but my heart is torn with secret pangs, and my brimming eyes set the large tears rolling, as though I watched o'er the stormy Aegean the sails of a departing friend, and from a cliff gazed wearily yet after the vessel, and complained that my sight was baffled by the long reach of air.

Ah ! if it were the brilliant opening of a soldier's career that called thee, noble youth, or the glad auspices of the camp, what joyful tears would flow, in what warm embraces would I clasp thee ! Must friends then even welcome sadness ?^b And already thy life has accomplished twice eight courses, but thy spirit is more robust than thy tender age, and thy years quail before their task, and thy will brooks not their control. Nor is that wonderful : thine was no unrenowned lineage, nor wast thou born of plebeian stock, obscure of family and devoid of ancestral fame ; no child of equestrian blood or but newly granted the robe of knighthood^c and the humble stripe^d didst thou as a newcomer knock at

^a The angusticlave, for which see note on iii. 2. 124.

augustam sedem et Latii penetrale senatus
 advena pulsasti, sed praecedente tuorum 20
 agmine. Romulei qualis per iugera circi,
 cum pulcher visu, titulis generosus avitis
 exspectatur equus, cuius de stemmate longo
 felix demeritos habet admissura parentes,
 illum omnes acuunt plausus, illum ipse volantem 25
 pulvis et incurvae gaudent agnoscere metae :
 sic te, clare puer, genitum sibi curia sensit,
 primaque patricia clausit vestigia luna.
 mox Tyrios ex more sinus tunicamque potentem
 agnovere umeri. sed enim tibi magna parabat 30
 ad titulos exempla pater. quippe ille iuventam
 protinus ingrediens pharetratum invasit Araxen
 belliger indocilemque fero servire Neroni
 Armeniam. rigidi summam Mavortis agebat
 Corbulo, sed comitem belli sociumque laborum 35
 ille quoque egregiis multum miratus in armis
 Bolanum ; atque illi curarum asperrima suetus
 credere partisque metus, quod tempus amicum
 fraudibus, exserto¹ quaenam bona tempora bello,
 quae suspecta fides aut quae fuga vera ferocis 40
 Armenii. Bolanus iter praenosse timendum,
 Bolanus tutis iuga quaerere commoda castris,
 metiri² Bolanus agros, aperire malignas
 torrentum nemorumque moras tantamque verendi
 mentem implere ducis iussisque ingentibus unus 45

¹ exserto *Livineius* : exorto *M*.

² metiri *M* : metari *Avantius*.

^a The crescent-shaped buckle on the senatorial shoe.

^b The "toga praetexta" and the laticlave (tunic with one broad purple stripe down the middle). See note to v. l. 52.

^c For the campaigns of Corbulo see Tac. *Ann.* xv. 1.

^d "metiri" is usually changed to "metari," as being more

the august abode and hallowed chamber of the Latian Senate, but preceded by a long array of thine own kinsmen. Just as when on the wide spaces of the Roman Circus a horse is awaited, comely to behold and generous with the blood of famous sires, in whose long pedigree a lucky mating has produced distinguished parentage; the applause of all excites him, the very dust and the round turning-points welcome with joy his flying hooves: so did the Senate-house know thee, illustrious boy, as born for itself, and set the patrician crescent ^a on thy youthful feet. Soon did thy shoulders recognize as their own the wonted Tyrian folds and the proud tunic.^b And indeed thy sire was preparing for thee mighty patterns of thy fame to be. For on the threshold of manhood he straightway made warlike attack on quiver-bearing Araxes and Armenia that would not learn to serve fierce Nero. Corbulo ^c held command in the stern warfare, but even he admired Bolanus, his comrade in battle and partner of his toils, in many a glorious fight; on him too was he wont to lay his keenest anxieties, and shared with him his fears, what occasion befriended ambush, what times were good for open fighting, when to suspect the word and when to trust the flight of proud Armenia. Bolanus it was who knew beforehand the perils of the route, Bolanus who sought the ridge that served the safety of the camp, Bolanus who measured ^d out the fields and cleared the dangerous hindrances of torrent or forest, who fulfilled the mighty purposes of that revered chieftain, and alone of all availed to

appropriate to camps: Statius, however, may not be thinking of castrametation at all, or may prefer the less technical word.

STATIUS

sufficere. ipsa virum norat iam barbara tellus,
 ille secundus apex bellorum et proxima cassis.
 sic Phryges attoniti, quamquam Nemeaea viderent
 arma Cleonaeusque acies impelleret arcus,
 pugnante Alcide tamen et Telamona timebant. 50
 disce, puer,—nec enim externo monitore petendus
 virtutis tibi pulcher amor : cognata ministret
 laus animos. alius Decii reducesque Camilli
 monstrentur—tu disce patrem, quantusque ne-
 gantem

fluctibus occiduis fesso usque¹ Hyperione Thylen 55
 intrarit mandata gerens quantusque potentis
 mille urbes Asiae sortito rexit anno,
 imperium mulcente toga. bibe talia pronis
 auribus, haec certent tibi conciliare propinqui,
 haec iterent comites praecepta senesque paterni. 60

Iamque alio moliris iter nec deside passu
 ire paras ; nondum validae tibi signa iuventae
 inrepsere genis, et adhuc tenor integer aevi.
 nec genitor iuxta ; fati namque haustus inquis
 occidit et geminam prolem sine praeside linquens. 65
 nec saltem teneris ostrum puerile lacertis
 exuit albentique umeros induxit amictu.
 quem non corrumpit pubes effrena novaeque

¹ fesso usque *Vollmer* : fessusque *M* : fessoque *Dom.* :
 fessoque Hyperioni *Imhof*.

^a The Trojans feared Telamon, father of Ajax, as well as Hercules (slayer of the Nemean lion near Cleonae). The reference is to the previous sack of Troy, in which Hercules took part.

^b Decius devoted himself to death for Rome ; Camillus returned from exile to defeat the Gauls.

^c He was legatus in Britain 70–71.

^d lit. “that says no to,” “opposes,” *cf.* iii. 1. 124 “saxa
 292

carry out his great commands. Already the barbarian land itself knew the hero well; his was the second crest in battle, his helm stood nearest to his chief's. So were the Phrygians dismayed,^a and though it was the arms of Nemea they saw, and Cleonae's bow that drove their ranks in rout, ay, though Alcides fought, yet feared they Telamon also. Learn, boy—for no stranger needst thou seek to teach thee the far love of valour; let kindred renown inflame thee: others may seek a pattern in Decius or the returning of Camillus^b—learn thou the lesson of thy sire,^c in what might he entered Thule that sets a barrier to western waves,^d where Hyperion is ever weary, and bore the commands of Caesar, how powerfully he governed the thousand cities of lordly Asia in the allotted year, yet with justice tempering authority. Drink in with ready ear these stories, for these let thy kinsmen strive to win thy love, these precepts let thy comrades and thy father's friends repeat.

And now thou art planning a journey to other lands, and art preparing to be gone with no sluggish stride; not yet have the signs of vigorous manhood crept about thy cheeks, blameless still is the tenour of thy life. Nor is thy father with thee: a cruel fate has taken him, he is dead, leaving two children without a guardian. He did not even take off the purple of boyhood from thy youthful arms, or put the white raiment about thy shoulders.^e Whom hath not unrestrained youth corrupted, and the too hasty freedom

negantia ferro," also *Theb.* ii. 668. Thule was regarded rather as in the extreme W. than in the N.

^e The change from the purple-bordered toga of childhood to the white toga of manhood is referred to.

STATIUS

libertas properata togae ! ceu nescia falcis
 silva comas tollit fructumque expirat in umbras. 70
 at tibi Pieriae tenero sub pectore curae
 et pudor et docti legem sibi dicere mores ;
 tunc hilaris probitas et frons tranquilla nitorque
 luxuriae confine tenens pietasque per omnes
 dispensata modos ; aequaevo cedere fratri 75
 mirarique patrem miseraeque ignoscere matri,
 admonuit fortuna domus. tibine illa nefanda
 pocula letalesque manu componere sucos
 evaluit, qui voce potes praevertere morsus
 serpentum atque omnes vultu placare novercas ? 80
 infestare libet manes meritoque precatu
 pacem auferre rogis ; sed te, puer optime, cerno
 flectentem visus¹ et talia dicta parantem :
 "parce, precor, cineri : fatum illud et ira nocentum.
 Parcarum crimenque dei, mortalia quisquis 85
 pectora sero videt nec primo in limine sistit
 conatus scelerum atque animos infanda parantes.
 excidat illa dies aevo nec postera credant
 saecula ! nos certe taceamus et obruta multa
 nocte tegi propriae patiamur crimina gentis. 90
 exegit poenas, hominum cui cura suorum,
 quo Pietas auctore redit terrasque revisit,
 quem timet omne nefas. satis haec lacrimandaque
 nobis
 ultio. quin saevas utinam exorare liceret

¹ visus *Postgate* : iustis *M*.

^a Acc. to Lemaire, "admonuit" implies "you have learnt from the story of your house to," etc.

^b Crispinus is praised for his generosity towards his mother who tried to poison him perhaps out of favour
 294

of the gown¹ even as a tree, when it knows not the knife, luxuriates in growth and wastes its fruitfulness in leaf? But beneath thy youthful breast are modesty and study of the Muse and a nature self-controlled; mirth too thou hast and honesty and a tranquil brow, and an elegance that stops short of luxury, and loyal devotion lavished on every side; the fortune of thy house has taught^a thee to give place to thy brother of equal age, to reverence thy sire and to forgive thy hapless mother.^b Could she bring herself to mix for thee the accursed cup of deadly juices, who by thy voice canst avert the bite of serpents, and by thy look soften the heart of any stepmother? Fain would I vex her shade, and by merited curses banish peace from her pyre; but thou, O best of youths, dost turn thy face,^c I see, and ponderest such words as these: "Spare the dust, I pray; 'twas destiny and the wrath of guilty Fates; that god was to blame, who looks too late into human hearts, nor checks upon the threshold the motions of evil and the unhallowed plottings of the mind. May that day perish from Time's record, nor future generations believe it! Let us at least keep silence, and suffer the crimes of our own house to be buried deep in whelming darkness. He wreaked the penalty who hath care of those who are his, at whose word Loyalty hath returned and come on earth again, whom every sin doth fear.^d Sufficient for us and deserving of our tears is his vengeance. Nay, could we but implore the fierce Avengers, and keep Cer-

towards his brother. A friend, Optatus, is mentioned at the end of the poem.

^c *i.e.*, "dost refuse to gratify my wish."

^d *i.e.*, the Emperor.

STATIUS

Eumenidas timidaeque avertere Cerberon umbrae 95
immemoremque tuis citius dare manibus amnem."

Maecte animo, iuvenis ! sed crescunt crimina matris.
nec tantum pietas, sed protinus ardua virtus
affectata tibi. nuper cum forte sodalis
immeritae falso palleret crimine famae 100
erigeretque forum succinctaque iudice multo
surgeret et castum vibraret Iulia fulmen :
tu, quamquam non ante forum legesque severas
passus, sed tacita studiorum occultus in umbra,
defensare metus adversaque tela subisti 105
pellere, inermis adhuc et tiro, paventis amici.
haud umquam tales aspexit Romulus annos
Dardaniusque senex medii bellare togata
strage fori. stupuere patres temptamina tanta
conatusque tuos, nec te reus ipse timebat.¹ 110
par vigor et membris, promptaeque ad fortia vires
sufficiunt animo atque ingentia iussa sequuntur
ipse ego te nuper Tiberino in litore vidi,
qua Tyrrhena vadis Laurentibus aestuat unda,
tendentem cursus vexantemque ilia nuda 115
calce ferocis equi, vultu dextraque minacem .
—si qua fides dictis, stupui armatumque² putavi—:
Gaetulo sic pulcher equo Troianaque quassans
tela novercales ibat venator in agros

¹ nec te reus ipse timebat *M*: some edd. mark a lacuna after reus: de te, pro te edd., nec tunc *Leo*: se . . . tenebat *conj. Phillimore*.

² armatumque *M*: Martemque *Markland*.

^a The charge was probably one of adultery, which would be dealt with under the Lex Iulia de maritandis ordinibus.

^b Romulus and Aeneas, *i.e.* their statues in the Forum.

^c I adopt this interpretation with a good deal of hesitation ("nec reus ipse = et ipse is qui non erat reus"). I do not,

berus from that timid shade, ay, more swiftly grant thy ghost the waters of forgetfulness ! ”

A blessing on thy heart, O youth ! yet the greater grows thy mother's crime. Not devotion only, but high courage also has been thy aim. Lately when thy friend grew pale at a false charge and unmerited ill-fame, and the Julian law awoke the Courts,^a and girt with her train of justices arose and shook her lightning-brand of chastity : thou, although without experience of trials or stern laws, but ever hidden in the silence of thy studious shade, yet didst take upon thee to avert his fears, and, thyself an unarmed recruit, to repel the bolts that threatened thy terror-stricken friend. Never before did Romulus and our Dardanian ancestor^b behold so young a combatant wage gown'd warfare in mid-forum. The fathers were amazed at so brave a venture and at thy daring and even the innocent feared thee.^c In thy limbs too is the same vigour, and thy strength ever ready for valiant deeds is sufficient for thy courage and obedient to high behests. Myself I saw thee of late on Tiber's bank, where the Tyrrhenian wave foams against Latian shallows, speeding on thy course, and with naked heel goading the flank of thy mettled steed, with threatening hand and visage :—as I speak truth, I stood aghast, and thought thee armed for battle—; so fair to see rode Ascanius on a Gaetulian horse a-hunting into his stepmother's fields, brandishing Trojan shafts, and made hapless

however, think there is a lacuna here. Prof. Hardie adopts Prof. Slater's suggestion that *nec te* is a corruption of *vecti*, i.e. Crispinus himself, and reads after 109—

ipse etiam stupuit tanti modo criminis auctor
conatusque tuos, Vecti,—reus ipse—timebat.

Ascanius miseramque patri flagrabat Elissam ; 120
Troilus haud alter gyro levior minantes
eludebat equos aut quem de turribus altis
Arcadas Ogygio versantem in pulvere metas
spectabant Tyriae non torvo lumine matres.

Ergo age iam¹ magno — ducis indulgentia pulsat 125
certaque dat votis hilaris vestigia frater —
surge animo et fortes castrorum concipe curas.
monstrabunt acies Mavors Actaeaeque virgo,
flectere Castor equos, umeris quater arma Quirinus,
qui tibi tam tenero permisit plaudere collo 130
nubigenas clipeos intactaque caedibus arma.

Quasnam igitur terras, quem Caesaris ibis in orbem?
Arctosne amnes et Rheni fracta natabis
flumina an aestiferis Libyae sudabis in arvis?
an iuga Pannoniae mutatoresque domorum 135
Sauromatas quaties? an te septenus habebit
Hister et umbroso circumflua coniuge Peuce?
an Solymum cinerem palmetaque capta subibis
non sibi felices silvas ponentis Idymes?
quod si te magno tellus frenata parenti 140
accipiat, quantum ferus exsultabit Araxes!
quanta Caledonios attollet gloria campos!
cum tibi longaeus referet trucidis incolae terrae:
“hic suetus dare iura parens, hoc caespitem turmas

¹ iam *Phillimore*: nam *M*; *punctuation Vollmer's*.

^a *i.e.*, wheeled as though he were racing in Arcadia.
“versantem metas” is grammatically a sort of hypallage, for
“versantem currum circa metas.” *Cf. Theb. ix. 683.*

^b *i.e.*, Parthenopaeus.

^c Pallas Athene.

^d He was one of the youthful *Salii Quirinales*, the priests
of Mars, who carried the sacred shields (“*ancilia*”) in his
worship.

Elissa burn with passion for his sire ; not otherwise did Troilus circling more nimbly elude the menacing steeds, or he whom as he wheeled round the turning-posts of Arcady^a in the dust of Thebes the Tyrian matrons beheld from their high towers with no unkindly eyes.^b

Come then—for thy Prince's favour urges thee on, and thy brother leaves sure footprints for thy vows,—arise with valiant heart, and bethink thee of the camp and its manly cares. Mars and the Attic maid^c shall show thee the battle line, Castor shall teach thee to wheel thy horsemen, Quirinus^d to clash thy arms upon thy shoulders, Quirinus who suffered thee to make ring upon thy youthful neck the cloud-born shields and armour unstained with blood.

To what lands then, to which of Caesar's worlds wilt thou go ? Wilt thou swim Northern rivers and the broken waters of Rhine, or sweat in the hot fields of Libya ? Wilt thou make Pannonian mountains tremble, and the Sauromatae that shift their dwelling ? Shall sevenfold Danube hold thee, and Peuce that lies amid her lover's shady streams ?^e Or wilt thou tread the dust of Solyma,^f and the captive palm-groves of Idume, who not for herself did plant her fruitful orchards ? But if the land that thy mighty parent curbed receive thee, how will savage Araxes thrill with joy ! What glory will exalt the Caledonian plains ! when some aged dweller in that bloodthirsty land tells thee : ^g “ Here was thy father wont to give

^a An island in the Danube, so called after the wife of the river-god, *cf.* Val. Fl. *Arg.* viii. 217.

^f *i.e.*, Jerusalem.

^g Vollmer quotes Tac. *Agr.* v. and the references to Vettius Bolanus in *Agr.* viii.

adfarī ; late¹ speculas² castellaque longe 145
 —aspicis³ —ille dedit cinxitque haec moenia fossa ;
 belligeris haec dona deis, haec tela dicavit
 —cernis adhuc titulos—; hunc ipse vocantibus armis
 induit, hunc regi rapuit thoraca Britanno.”
 qualiter in Teucros victricia bella paranti 150
 ignotum Pyrrho Phoenix narrabat Achillem.

Felix, qui viridi fidens, Optate, iuventa
 durabis quascumque vias vallumque subibis,
 forsā et ipse latus—sic numina principis adsint—
 cinctus et unanimi comes indefessus amici, 155
 quo Pylades ex more pius, quo Dardana gessit
 bella Menoetiades. quippe haec concordia vobis,
 hic amor est duretque precor ! nos fortior aetas
 iam fugit ; hinc votis animum precibusque iuvabo,
 et mihi ! sed questus solitos si forte ciebo 160
 et mea Romulei venient ad carmina patres,
 tu deeris, Crispine, mihi, cuneosque per omnes
 te meus absentem circumspectabit Achilles.
 sed venies melior—vatum non irrita currunt
 omina—, quique aquilas tibi nunc et castra recludit,
 idem omnes perferre gradus cingique³ superbis 166
 fascibus et patrias dabit insedis curules.

Sed quis ab excelsis Troianae collibus Albae,

¹ late *Waller* : vitae *M*, vicis, vigiles, Vetti, viden has
etc. edd.

² speculas *5* : specula *M*.

³ cingique *Pol.* : cingitque *M*.

^a *i.e.*, as I recite it (my *Achilleid*).

^b *i.e.*, the rank of military tribune ; such tribunes were called “tribuni laticlavii,” as compared with “tr. angusticlavii,” who were knights (Suet. *Otho*, 10). This rank and that of “praefectus alae (equitum)” were often given to sons of senators (Suet. *Oct.* 38). Hence “clari” in v. 1. 97. This would be the first step (i. 173) in the senatorial career.

justice, from this mound would he harangue his horsemen; watch-towers and strongholds in wide circuit did he set—dost thou see?—and drew a trench around these walls; these gifts, these weapons did he dedicate to the god of war—thou seest still their titles; this cuirass he himself put on at the battle's summons, this one did he take from off the British king." Such tales would Phoenix tell to Pyrrhus, as he planned victorious war against the Trojans, of Achilles whom he had never known.

Happy thou, Optatus, who trusting in thy supple youth shalt endure whatever road or rampart thou shalt approach, girt thyself also with the sword, perchance—so be the godhead of the Prince propitious—and the untiring comrade of thy bosom friend, even as was devoted Pylades, or Patroclus in the Dardan war. A union of hearts is yours; true affection is this, and I pray that it abide. For me, the years of vigour speed fast away; therefore with vows and prayers will I cheer thy spirit, and mine as well! But if I utter my wonted lament and the Roman fathers come to hear my song, I shall then feel thy loss, Crispinus, and my Achilles^a will look on every bench for thee in vain. But thou shalt return yet more renowned—not idly run the prophecies of the seers—and he who now admits thee to the eagles^b and the camp shall grant thee to accomplish all the degrees of rank, and to be surrounded by the rods of power, and to take thy seat on thy father's curule chair.

But who is this that from Trojan Alba's^c lofty hills,

^a Alba, founded by Ascanus; the Emperor had a residence there.

STATIUS

unde suae iuxta prospectat moenia Romae
proximus ille deus, Fama velocior intrat 170
nuntius atque tuos implet, Crispine, penates ?
dicebam certe : vatum non irrita currunt
auguria. en ! ingens reserat tibi limen honorum
Caesar et Ausonii committit munia ferri.
vade,¹ puer, tantisque emixus suffice donis, 175
felix, qui magno iam nunc sub praeside iuras
cuique sacer primum tradit Germanicus ense !
non minus hoc, fortis quam si tibi panderet ipse
Bellipotens aquilas torvaque induceret ora
casside. vade alacer maioraque disce mereri ! 180

III. EPICEDION IN PATREM SUUM

Ipsae malas vires et lamentabile carmen
Elysio de fonte mihi pulsumque sinistrae
da, genitor praedocte, lyrae. neque enim antra
moveri
Delia nec solitam fas est impellere Cirrham
te sine. Corycia quicquid modo Phoebus in umbra,
quicquid ab Ismariis monstrabat collibus Euan, 6
dedidici. fugere meos Parnasia crines
vellera, funestamque hederis inrepere taxum

¹ vade *Pol.* : unde *M.*

^a On Parnassus (*cf. Theb.* vii. 348).

^b In Thrace, with which Bacchus was connected in legend.

whence that present deity looks forth upon the walls of his own Rome hard by, enters outstripping Rumour, and with his news fills all thy house, Crispinus? Surely was I saying: "Not idly run the prophecies of the seers." Lo! Caesar unbars for thee the mighty threshold of renown, and entrusts the sword of Ausonia to thy keeping. Forward, lad! having striven so far have strength for this great privilege, happy, who even now dost swear homage to thy mighty Chief, and to whom divine Germanicus doth give thy first sword! This is no lesser gift, than if the God of war himself bestowed on thee his strong eagles, and set his grim casque upon thy head. Go in good heart, and learn to merit yet higher honours!

III. THE POET'S LAMENT FOR HIS FATHER

The longest and most elaborate of the epicedia, and marked by much deeper and more genuine feeling than the others (except perhaps v. 5); it is to be noticed that it only appears in the fifth book of the Silvae, though his father had died about fifteen years previously. Possibly the last book was posthumous; it has no preface to it, as the others have, only a letter to Abascantus, and its last poem is an unfinished one.

Do thou thyself, most learned sire, vouchsafe me from Elysian springs a bitter potency in the music of grief, and the touch of an ill-omened lyre. For without thee I may not move the Delian grottoes, or awake Cirrha to wonted strains. All that Phoebus of late revealed in his Corycian bower,^a and Euhan upon the hills of Ismara,^b I have unlearnt. The fillets of Parnassus have dropped from my brow, and I have beheld in fear the deadly yew creep in among

STATIUS

extimui trepidamque—nefas !—arescere laurum.
 certe ego, magnanimum qui facta attollere regum 10
 ibam altum spirans Martemque aequare canendo.
 quis sterili mea corda situ, quis Apolline merso
 frigida damnatae praeduxit nubila menti ?
 stant circum attonitae vatem et nil dulce sonantes
 nec digitis nec voce deae. dux ipsa silenti 15
 fulta caput cithara, qualis post Orpheia raptum
 astitit, Hebre, tibi, cernens iam surda ferarum
 agmina et immotos sublato carmine lucos.

At tu seu membris emissus in ardua tendens
 fulgentesque plagas rerumque elementa recenses, 20
 quis deus, unde ignes, quae ducat semita solem,
 quae minuat Phoeben quaeque integrare latentem
 causa queat, notique modos extendis Arati,
 seu tu Lethaei secreto in gramine campi
 concilia heroum iuxta manesque beatos, 25
 Maeonium Ascraeumque senem, non segnior umbra
 accolis alternumque sonas et carmina misces :
 da vocem magno, pater, ingeniumque dolori.
 nam me ter relegens caelo¹ terque ora retexens
 Luna videt residem nullaque Heliconide tristes 30
 solantem curas ; tuus ut mihi vultibus ignis
 inrubit cineremque oculis umentibus hausi,
 vilis honos studiis. vix haec in munera solvo
 primum animum, tacitisque situm depellere curis²

¹ caelo *M*: caelum *Heinsius*.

² tacitis . . . curis *M*: tactis . . . chordis *Polster*.

^a Author of an astronomical treatise called *Phaenomena*.

^b Homer and Hesiod.

^c This perhaps is not to be literally taken, *i.e.* that the poem was written three months after his father's death ; still in any case he must have kept it by him for a long while before publishing it—if indeed the publication was not posthumous.

the ivy-leaves, and the trembling bay—ah! horror!—wither and die. Yet surely I am he who, loftily inspired, essayed to extol the deeds of great-hearted kings, and to raise my song to the height of Mars himself. Who has doomed my spirit to decay? Who has drawn a cold shroud of mist about my blighted heart, and drowned my inspiration? The goddesses stand dismayed around the bard, and with neither voice nor finger make sweet melody. Their queen herself sinks her head upon her silent lyre, as when after Orpheus' loss she halted by thy stream, O Hebrus, and gazed at the troops of beasts that listened no more, and the woods that moved not since the strains were gone.

But thou, whether freed from the body thou soarest to the heights and reviewest the glittering realms and the elements of things, learning what is God, whence cometh fire, what orbit guides the sun, what cause makes Phoebe wane and has power to restore her hidden light, and dost continue the music of renowned Aratus^a; or whether in the secluded grassy meads of Lethe, among gatherings of heroes and spirits of the blest, thou dost attend the Maeonian and Ascræan sages,^b thyself no feebler shade, and makest music in thy turn and minglest thy song with theirs: O grant a voice and inspiration, father, to my great grief. For thrice^c has the moon journeyed o'er the heaven, and thrice displayed her countenance, and still beholds me sluggish, and my sadness unconsolated by any draught of Helicon; ever since thy pyre shed its red light upon my face, and with streaming eyes I gazed upon thy ashes, I have held cheap my poet's art. Scarce do I for the first time free my mind for tasks like this, and (e'en now

nunc etiam labente manu nec lumine sicco 35
ordior adclinis tumulo, quo molle quiescis
iugera nostra tenens, ubi post Aeneia fata
stellatus Latiis ingessit montibus Albam
Ascanius, Phrygio dum pingues sanguine campos
odit et infaustae regnum dotale novercae. 40
hic ego te—nam Sicani non mitius halat
aura croci, dites nec si tibi rara Sabaei
cinnama, odoratas nec Arabs decerpis aristas—
inferiis cumulande sacris, te¹ carmine plango
Pierio ; sume o gemitus et vulnera nati 45
et lacrimas, rari quas umquam habuere parentes.
atque utinam fortuna mihi, dare manibus aras,
par templis opus, aeriamque educere molem,
Cyclosum scopulos ultra atque audacia saxa
Pyramidum, et magno tumulum praetexere luco ! 50
illic et Sicali superassem dona sepulcri
et Nemees lucum et Pelopis solemnia trunci.
illic Oebalio non finderet aera disco
Graiorum vis nuda² virum, non arva rigaret
sudor equum aut putri sonitum daret ungula fossa ;
sed Phoebi simplex chorus, et frondentia vatum 56
praemia laudato, genitor, tibi rite ligarem.³
ipse madens oculis, umbrarum animaeque sacerdos,

¹ inferiis cumulande sacris te *Phillimore* ; inferni cum laudae lacu *M* : inferni cum laude datis et *Krohn* . inserui cum laude loci *Dom.*, te *conj.* *Markland*.

² nuda *5* : unda *M* : uncta *Polster*.

³ ligarem *M* : dicarem *5*, litarent *Ellis*.

^a Probably refers to the incident related *Aen.* ii. 682 :

ecce levis summo de vertice visus Iuli
fundere lumen apex, etc.

^b Lavinia.

with failing hand and no tearless eye) essay to shake my silent sorrow from its torpor, leaning against the tomb in which thou dost rest at peace in our own fields,—those fields where after Aeneas' death star-bright Ascanius set Alba upon Latian hills,^a in hatred of the plains that Phrygian blood had drenched, the royal dower of his ill-omened stepdame.^b Here in thy honour—nor softer is the fragrant breath of Sicanian crocus, nor the rare cinnamon that rich Sabaeans pluck thee, nor perfumed blossoms of Arabia—O thou who deservest full meed of holy offerings, do I make musical lament ; ah ! receive the groans and the anguish of thy son, and tears such as have been shed for but few fathers. Would it were my fortune, to build an altar to thy shade, a work that would match temples, to raise high the soaring fabric, higher than Cyclopean rock or the Pyramids' bold masonry, and plant a mighty grove about thy tomb. There had I surpassed the tribute of the Sicilian sepulchre, and Nemea's precinct and the rites of maimed Pelops.^c There no naked band of Grecian athletes would cleave the air with the Oebahan disk,^d no sweat of steeds would water the ground or hoof-beat ring upon the crumbling track ; there would be but the choir of Phoebus, and I would duly sing thy praise, O father, and bind on thee the minstrel's prize of leaves. I myself, as priest of the dead and of thy soul, would with moist eyes lead a mournful dirge, from which

^c The references are to the tomb raised by Aeneas for Anchises, that of Opheltes (see *Theb.* vi 242), and the Olympian games founded in honour of Pelops.

^d It was with the quoit that Apollo slew Narcissus, son of Oebalus, king of Sparta.

praecinerem gemitum, cui te nec Cerberus omni
ore nec Orpheae quirent avertere leges. 60
atque ibi me¹ moresque tuos et facta canentem
fors et magniloquo non posthabuisset Homero,
tenderet et torvo pietas aequare Maroni.

Cur magis incessat superos et aena sororum
stamina, quae tepido genetrix super aggere nati 65
orba sedet vel quae primaevi coniugis ignem
aspicit obstantesque manus turbamque tenentem
vincit in ardentem, liceat, moritura² maritum ?
maior et his forsán superos et Tartara pulsem³
invidia : externis etiam miserabile visu 70
funus eat.⁴ sed nec modo se Natura dolenti
nec⁵ Pietas in iusta⁶ dedit ; mihi limine primo
fatorum et viridi, genitor, ceu raptus ab aevo
Tartara dura subis. nec enim Marathonia virgo
parcius exstinctum saevorum crimine agrestum 75
fleverit Icarium, Phrygia quam turre cadentem
Astyanacta parens. laqueo quin illa supremo

¹ ibi me *Heinsius* : tibi *M*.

² moritura *M* : modo itura *Schrader*, ruitura *Heinsius*.

³ maior et his . . . pulsem *Krohn* : alius *M* : at his *Baehrens* :
a18 Vollmer : ab his *Phillimore*, who reads pulset.

⁴ invidia : . . eat. *edd.* : invidia ? . . eat ? *Phillimore*.

⁵ nec *M* : sed *Phillimore*, bracketing nec modo to dedit.

⁶ in iusta *Boxhorn* : iniusta *edd.*

^a The idea running through this passage is that to him his father is as one untimely dead, and that therefore this bitterness is added to the grief felt by natural affection ; Erigone is an example of the same thing. She bewailed her
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neither Cerberus with all his mouths nor Orpheus' cruel bond could keep thee. There as I sang of thy goodness and thy deeds perchance thy love had deemed me not second to Homer's mighty utterance, ay, would even fain hold me equal to Maro's solemn chant.

^a Why does the mother who sits bereaved by her son's still-glowing pile assail the gods and the Sisters' brazen threads more bitterly than I? Why she who looks upon the flames that consume her youthful spouse, and breaks through the hands that stay her and the resisting crowd, to die, do they but suffer her, upon her husband's blazing corpse? More fiercely even than theirs, perchance, does my reproach strike Tartarus and the gods; ^b perchance even alien eyes find sorrow in the funeral train. Ay, not Nature only nor Affection have lent themselves to my grief for these sad rites: for to me, O father, thou wert cut off on manhood's earliest threshold, and in the prime of life didst enter cruel Tartarus. For neither did the Marathonian maid lament Icarius' death, that savage countrymen wrought, more sparingly than his mother mourned Astyanax hurled down from the Phrygian tower. Nay, Erigone stifled her sobs in the noose that took her life; but

father Icarius no less bitterly than Andromache mourned Astyanax her son; Erigone slew herself, while Andromache became the slave of Pyrrhus.

^b The construction seems to be "perhaps fiercer than these in my reproach I strike," etc.; "invidia" is strictly the feeling of bitterness against a person, often of the bereaved towards the gods, *cf. Theb.* ix. 723; *Silv.* v. 5. 78. The sympathy of onlookers is often referred to as being aroused especially by cases of untimely death, *cf. ii.* 1. 175, v. 1. 217.

STATIUS

inclusit gemitus : at te post funera magni
Hectoris Haemonio pudor est servisse marito.

Non ego, quas fati certus sibi morte canora 80
inferias praemittit olor nec rupe quod atra
Tyrrhenae volucres nautis praedulce minantur,
in patrios adhibebo rogos : non murmure trunco
quod gemit et durae queritur Philomela sorori :
nota nimis vati. quis non in funere cunctos 85
Heliadum ramos lacrimosaque germina dixit
et Phrygium silicem atque ausum contraria Phoebō
carmina nec fida¹ gavisam Pallada buxo ?
te Pietas oblita virum revocataque caelo
Iustitia et gemina plangat Facundia lingua 90
et Pallas doctique cohors Heliconia Phoebi,
quis labor Aonios seno pede ducere cantus²
et quibus Arcadia carmen testudine mensis
cura lyrae³ nomenque fuit quosque orbe sub omni
ardua septena numerat Sapientia fama, 95
qui furias regumque domos aversaque caelo
sidera terrifico super intonuere cothurno,
et quis lasciva vires tenuare Thalia

¹ fida *M*: foeda *Heinsius*: bifida *Phillimore*.

² cantus *Barth*: campos *M*: currere campos *Heinsius*.

³ cura lyrae *Gronovius*: cydalibem *M*.

^a *i.e.*, Andromache, mother of Astyanax, she became the slave of Neoptolemus, son of Achilles after the death of her husband, Hector. ^b See on ii. 2. 1.

^c Pallas had her own reasons for disliking the flute, and was therefore glad when it betrayed Marsyas. The other

thou,^a when mighty Hector was dead, didst stoop to serve a Haemonian lord.

I shall not bring to my father's pyre that tribute of death-music which the swan when he knows his doom sends to the world beneath, nor the warning strains surpassing sweet that the Tyrrhenian ^b winged maids chant to mariners from the fatal cliff: no sorrowful tongueless plaint of Philomela to her cruel sister: the minstrel knows them all too well. Who by the grave's side has not recounted all the branches and all the amber tears of the Sun's daughters, and Phrygia's flinty rock, and him who dared make music against Phoebus, while Pallas rejoiced that the boxwood-pipe deceived him? ^c Nay, let Pity that has forgotten men,^d and Justice recalled to heaven, and Eloquence in either tongue bewail thee, and Pallas and the Heliconian train of minstrel Phoebus; those also whose toil it is to guide Aonian song in six-foot measures,^e and they who fit their strains to the Arcadian tortoise-shell,^f and find in the lyre their labour and renown, those whom 'neath every sky sublimest Wisdom counts in the sevenfold roll of Fame ^g; they who in the dread buskin have thundered out the fury and the wickedness of kings, and told of the sun's light hidden from the earth, and they whose joy it is to relax their powers in Thalia's

references are to the daughter of the Sun who wept for Phaethon, and to Niobe (from Mt. Sipylus in Phrygia, where the figure of Niobe was, according to legend).

^a See III. 3. 1 n.

^b *i.e.*, the epic hexameter. Aonian = of the Muses, *lit.* = Boeotian.

^f *i.e.*, lyric, suggested by "carmen" and "mensis."

^g The Seven Wise Men; probably prose composition generally.

dulce vel heroos gressu truncare tenores.¹
 omnia namque animo complexus et omnibus auctor²
 qua fandi vis lata patet, sive orsa libebat 101
 Aoniis vincere modis seu voce soluta
 spargere et effreno nimbos aequare profatu.
 Exsere semirutos subito de pulvere vultus,
 Parthenope, crinemque adflato monte sepultum 105
 pone super tumulos et magni funus alumni,
 quo non Munichiae³ quicquam praestantius arces
 doctaque Cyrene Sparteve animosa creavit.
 si tu stirpe vacans fama⁴ obscura iaceres
 nil gentile tenens, illo te cive probabas 110
 Graiam atque Euboico maiorum sanguine duci.
 ille⁵ tuis totiens praestabat⁶ tempora sertis,
 cum stata laudato caneret quinquennia versu
 ora supergressus Pylis senis⁷ oraque regis
 Dulichii specieque comam subnexus utraque.⁸ 115
 non tibi deformes obscuri sanguinis ortus
 nec sine luce genus (quamquam fortuna parentum
 artior expensis⁹); etenim te divite ritu

¹ tenores *Dom.*: leones *M*, *Vollmer*: labores, lepores, etc. *edd.*

² auctor *Dom.*: utor *M*

³ Munichiae *Pol.*: monichiae *M*: Monichiae *Heinsius*: Monychiae *Postgate*.

⁴ vacans fama⁴ *Baehrens*: vetas fama⁴ *M*: nefas fama⁴ *Phillimore*: vetus *Dom.*

⁵ ille *M*: illa *Postgate*.

⁶ praestabat *Elter*: prestat sed *M*: praestant se *Vollmer*.

⁷ senis *S*: gregis *M*, *Klotz*, *Vollmer*: regis Pylis *conj. Postgate*.

⁸ specieque . . . utraque *Dom.*: speciemque . . . utroque *M*, *Vollmer*, *Klotz*.

⁹ expensis *Avantius*: extensis *M*.

wantoning, or to maim of one foot the heroic tenor of their lay.^a For all measures in the broad path of eloquence did thy mind embrace, in all wert thou a master, whether it pleased thee to bind thy utterance in poesy, or to fling it wide in unfettered speech and rival the rainstorms by the unbridled torrent of thy words.

Lift up, Parthenope, lift up thy head half-buried from the dust that suddenly whelmed thee, lay thy tresses merged beneath the mountain's exhalations upon the tomb of thy great departed son: than whom neither the Munychian towers^b nor learned Cyrene nor Sparta's valiant spirit^c gave birth to aught more excellent. Wert thou lacking in lineage, humble and unrenowned, with nought of thine own race to show, his citizenship would prove thee Grecian and sprung from Euboea by ancestral blood. He, whene'er he celebrated the solemn quinquennial feast^d in famous verse, as often offered his temples to receive thy laurel-prize, surpassing the utterance of Pylia sage and Dulichian prince alike,^e and binding the likeness of either on his brow. No mean birth of blood obscure was thine, nor was thy family without distinction (though expenses straitened thy parents' means); for it was in rich pomp that Infancy

^a On the ms. reading Vollmer remarks: "kuhn nennt der Dichter die Verse, welche die wie Lowen kampfenden Helden darstellen, selbst 'leones.'" Tragedy, comedy, and elegy are denoted in ll. 96-99.

^b Athens.

^c Callimachus from Cyrene, Alcman from Sparta.

^d The Augustalia at Naples.

^e Nestor and Ulysses are referred to, both of whom were eloquent speakers.

STATIUS

ponere purpureos Infantia legit¹ amictus
 stirpis honore datos et nobile pectoris aurum. 120
 protinus exorto dextrum risere sorores
 Aonides, puerique chelyn summisit et ora
 imbuit amne sacro iam tum mihi blandus Apollo.
 nec simplex patriae decus, et natalis origo
 pendet ab² ambiguo geminae certamine terrae. 125
 te de gente suum Latis ascita colonis
 Graia refert Hyele,³ gravidus⁴ qua puppe magister
 excidit et mediis miser evigilavit in undis ;
 maior at inde suum longo probat ordine vitae
Parthenope *.⁵
 Maeoniden aliaeque aliis natalibus urbes 130
 diripiunt cunctaeque probant ; non omnibus ille
 verus, alit victos immanis gloria falsi.
 atque ibi dum profers annos vitamque salutas,
 protinus ad patrii raperis certamina lustris
 vix implenda viris, laudum festinus et audax⁶ 135
 ingenii. stupuit primaeva ad carmina plebes
 Euboea et natis te monstravere parentes.
 inde frequens pugnae nulloque ingloria sacro
 vox tua : non totiens victorem Castora gyro
 nec fratrem caestu virides plausere⁷ Therapnae. 140

¹ legit *M* : adegit *Dom* ² ab *Barth* : et *M*.

³ Hyele *Heinsius* : sele *M* : Velle *5* .

⁴ gravidus *Ellis* : gravis *M* : Graius *5* .

⁵ *Lacuna recognized here by Markland, as there is no mention of Parthenope ; no lacuna in MSS.*

⁶ festinus et audax *Lipsius* : festina sed ut dux *M*.

⁷ plausere *Dom* . : clausero *M*.

^a There is no justification for changing "ponere" to "sumere"; the ceremony clearly is the laying aside of the "toga praetexta" and the golden "bulla," emblems of childhood; the fact that this ceremony was performed with great pomp is given as a proof of the statement "non tibi

chose thee to lay by the purple garb^a given in honour of thy birth and the proud gold from off thy breast. Straightway at thy appearing the Aonian sisters favourably smiled, and Apollo even then my friend dipped thy boyish lyre and steeped thy lips in the sacred stream. Nor is thy country's glory single, and the undecided contest of two lands leaves the place of thy origin in doubt. Grecian Hyele,^b where the drowsy steersman fell from the poop and passed a distressful vigil in the waves,—Hyele, made their own by Latian settlers, claims thee on the score of birth; but then mightier <Parthenope> proves thee hers by thy life's long course—even so different cities with as many birth-places divide Maconides^c among themselves, and prove their case every one; yet is he not the true scion of all, but the vast pride of a false claim puffs up the vanquished. There, while thou didst begin thy lays and offer thy greeting to life, straightway wert thou hurried into the contests of thy native festival that men can scarce sustain, so eager wert thou for praise and bold of wit. The Euboean folk stood amazed at thy youthful verse, and parents showed thee to their sons. Thereafter was thy voice frequent in combat, and at no solemn feast inglorious: not so often did green Therapnae applaud Castor's victory upon the round course, or Pollux triumphant in the boxing-match. But if to

deformes," etc. Possibly "ex tantis" (out of so many, "tanti" often = "tot," iv. 1. 33, iv. 8. 14) should be read for "expensis." "stirpis honore datos" does not refer to the grant of the laticlave, for this took place only with the assumption of the "toga virilis," but simply to the fact that he was a freeborn citizen.

^b Velia, on the Lucanian coast; the reference is to Palinurus (Virg. *Aen.* vi. 366). ^c Homer.

sin¹ pronum vicisse domi : quid Achaea mereri
praemia nunc ramis Phoebi nunc gramine Lernae
nunc Athamantea protectum tempora pinu,
cum totiens lassata tamen nusquam avia frondes
abstulit aut alium tetigit Victoria crinem ? 145

Hinc tibi vota patrum credi generosaque pubes
te monitore regi, mores et facta priorum
discere, quis casus Troiae, quam tardus Ulixes,
quantus equos pugnascque virum decurrere versu
Maeonides quantumque pios ditarit agrestes 150
Ascraeus Siculusque senex, qua lege recurrit
Pindaricae vox flexa lyrae volucrumque precator
Ibycus² et tetricis Alcman cantatus Amyclis
Stesichorusque ferox saltusque ingressa viriles
non formidata temeraria Leucade³ Sappho, 155
quosque alios dignata chelys. tu pandere doctus
carmina Battiadae latebrasque Lycophronis arti⁴
Sophronaque implicitum tenuisque arcana Corinnae.
sed quid parva loquor ? tu par adsuetus Homero
ferre iugum senosque pedes aequare solutis 160
versibus et numquam passu brevior relinqui.
quid mirum, patria si te petiere relicta,
quos Lucanus ager, rigidi quos iugera Dauni,
quos Veneri plorata domus neglectaque tellus

¹ sin *M*: sit *Dom*.

² Ibycus *Pol*: Obsicus *M*.

³ Leucade *Pol*. (from some commentator unknown).
calchide *M*.

⁴ arti *Baehrens*: ari *M*: atri *S*.

^a The laurel of Apollo in the Pythian games, the wild
parsley at Nemea, the pine-branch at Isthmus (Athamas
was the father of Palaemon, who with his mother Ino was
worshipped there; Lerna is in the neighbourhood of Nemea).

^b Hesiod and Epicharmus (*cf.* Columella, i. 1. 8).

^c Ibycus called on a flock of cranes to avenge him on
some robbers who had ill-treated him.

^d The only support for the ms. *Calchide* is a statement

win at home was easy, what a feat to gain Achæan prizes, shading thy temples now with the spray of Phoebus, now with Lerna's grasses, now with the Athamantian pine,^a when Victory so often quailed for weariness, yet never missed thee or robbed thee of thy leaves, or touched another's hair !

Hence came it that thou wert trusted with the fond hopes of parents, and under thy guidance noble youths were ruled, and learnt the ways and the prowess of men of old—the fate of Troy, Ulysses' tardy return, what power has Maeonides to describe in song the battles and steeds of heroes, how the bards of Ascra and of Sicily^b enriched the faithful husbandmen, the law that sways the recurrent, winding rhythms of Pindar's lyre, Ibycus who besought the birds,^c Alcman whose strains warlike Amyclæ sang, proud Stesichorus, and bold Sappho^d who feared not Leucas, but took the heroic leap, and all others whom the harp has deemed worthy. Skilled wert thou to expound the songs of Battus' son,^e and the dark ways and straitened speech of Lycophron, and Sophron's tangled mazes and the hidden thought of subtle Corinna. But why speak I of lesser names ? Thou wert wont to bear an equal yoke with Homer,^f and match his hexameters in prose, nor ever be out-distanced and fail to keep his pace. What wonder if they left their own land and sought thee, all whom Lucania sent and the acres of stern Daunus,^g and the home that Venus bewailed and the land that Alcides of Stephanus of Byzantium that there was a Chalcis on or near the island of Lesbos.

^a Callimachus (Battus, founder of Cyrene).

^f He had written a prose paraphrase of Homer

^g *i.e.*, Apulia ; a legendary king. "stern": *cf.* Hor. *C.* i. 22. 14 "militaris Daunias."

Alcidae vel quos e vertice Surrentino 165
mittit Tyrrheni speculatrix virgo profundi,
quos propiore sinu lituo remoque notatus
collis et Ausonii pridem laris hospita Cyme
quosque Dicarchei portus Baianaque mittunt
litora, qua mediis alte permixtus¹ anhelat 170
ignis aquis et operta domos incendia servant?
sic ad Avernales scopulos et opaca Sibyllae
antra rogaturae veniebant undique gentes;
illa minas divum Parcarumque acta canebat
quamvis decepto vates non irrita Phoebō. 175
mox et Romuleam stirpem proceresque futuros
instruis inque patrum vestigia ducere perstas.
sub te Dardanius facis explorator opertae,
qui Diomedei celat penetralia furti,
crevit et inde sacrum didicit puer; arma probator²
monstrasti Saliis³ praesagumque aethera certi⁴ 181
auguribus; cui Chalcidicum fas volvere carmen,
cur Phrygii lateat coma flaminis, et tua multum
verbera succincti formidavere Luperci.

¹ permixtus *5*: permissus *M*.

² probator *Ellis*: probatur *M*: probatus *Vollmer*: probatis *Baehrens*.

³ monstrasti Salus *Lipsius*: monstrastis alius *M*.

⁴ certi *Vollmer*: certis *M*.

^a Pompen, of which Venus was patron goddess, Herculaneum, Surrentum with the promontory of Minerva, Cape Misenum.

^b Of Misenum.

^c Slater: "that welcomed long ago the Ausonian Lar," i.e. Aeneas.

^d By refusing his love after he had granted whatever she chose to ask (i.e., as many years as there were grains in a handful of dust).

^e The reference is to the "pontifices," under whose super-

slighted, and the maiden who from Sorrento's height watches the Tyrrhenian deep, and the hill above the nearer bay ^a marked by the trumpet and the oar,^b those too whom Cyme sent, once a stranger to her Ausonian home,^c and the haven of Dicarchus and Baiae's shore, where pants the fire deep-mingled with the midmost waves and the smothered conflagrations keep their dwellings? So from every side came the folk to Avernus' rocks and the dark grotto of the Sibyl, to ask their questions, while she sang of the wrath of heaven and the doings of the Fates, no vain prophet even though she foiled Apollo.^d Soon dost thou educate the Roman youth and the chieftains that shall be, and firmly leadest them in the footsteps of their sires. Under thy care grew the Dardanian overseer of the hidden fire,^e who conceals the mysterious theft of Diomede, and from thee while a boy did he learn the rite: thou didst approve the Salii, and teach them their weapons' use and show to the augurs the sure foreknowledge of the air; thou didst tell to whom belongs the privilege of unfolding the Chalcidic oracle, and why the hair of the Phrygian flamen is concealed; and the girt-up Luperci sorely feared thy blows ^f

vision was the sacred fire in the temple of Vesta, and the Palladium that Diomede stole from Troy.

^f The "pontifices" had charge of the sacred fire in the temple of Vesta, and the Palladium taken from Troy by Diomede and Ulysses; the Salii were priests of Mars, the augurs had supervision of the auspices, and the XVviri of the Sibylline books; the priests of the Phrygian Cybele (like other flamens, who are therefore included) had to wear the "apex," a small sacrificial cap. The Luperci ran through the city half-naked, striking women with goatskin thongs to cause fertility; here they are girt up to receive, not to inflict stripes!

Et nunc ex illo forsán grege gentibus alter 185
iura dat Eois, alter compescit Hiberas,
alter Achaemenium secludit Zeugmate Persen,
hi dites Asiae populos, hi Pontica frenant,
hi fora pacificis emendant fascibus, illi
castra pia statione tenent : tu laudis origo. 190
non tibi certassent iuvenilia fingere corda
Nestor et indomiti Phoenix moderator alumni
quique tubas acres lituosque audire volentem
Aeciden alio frangebát carmine Chiron.

Talia dum celebras, subítam civilis Erinys 195
Tarpeio de monte facem Phlegraeaeque movit
proelia. sacrilegis lucent Capitolia taedis,¹
et Senonum furias Latiae sumpseré cohortes.
vix requies flammae necdum roguis ille deorum
siderat, excisis cum tu solacia templis 200
impíger et multum facibus velocior ipsis
concinis ore pio captivaeque fulmina defles.
mirantur Latii procères ultorque deorum
Caesar, et e medio divum pater annuit igni.
iamque et flere pio Vesuvina incendia cantu 205
mens erat et gemitum patriis impendere damnis,
cum pater exemptum terris ad sidera montem
sustulit et late miserás deiecit in urbes.

Me quoque vocales lucos Boeotaeque² tempe

¹ taedis 5 : rhedis *M*.

² Boeotaeque *Baehrens* : biota- or luotaque *M* : Inoaeque
etc. edd.

^a See note on iii. 2. 137.

^b Both Phoenix and Chiron acted as tutor to Achilles.

^c The fighting in Rome between the Vitellian and Flavian troops, A.D. 69.

^d Such as when the gods fought against the giants in the plains of Phlegra, *cf.* i. 1. 79 "bella Iovis." The Senones were a Gallic tribe.

And now of that company one perchance gives laws to Eastern races, another quells Iberian tribes, another at Zeugma ^a sets bounds to the Achaemenian Persian; these curb the rich peoples of Asia, those the lands of Pontus, these by peaceable authority declare pure justice in the courts, those hold loyal watch and ward in camps; thou art the source of their renown. In moulding youthful minds neither Nestor nor Phoenix, guide of his untamed foster-child, had striven with thee, nor Chiron, who with far different strains subdued the heart of Aeacides, fain to hear the bugles and the blast of horns.^b

Whilst thus thou wert busy, of a sudden civil Strife ^c raised her torch on the Tarpeian mount, and stirred Phlegraean combats.^d The Capitol glows with impious fire, and Latian cohorts showed the fury of the Gauls. Scarce had the flame abated, still burnt that funeral pyre of gods, when thou undismayed, eagerly forestalling the brands themselves, didst chant with pious voice a solace for the shrines destroyed and lament the captured thunderbolts. The Roman chieftains and Caesar, heaven's avenger, marvel, and from the midst of the blaze the Sire of the gods gives sign of favour. And already was it thy purpose to bewail in pious chant the conflagration of Vesuvius, and expend thy tears on the ruin of thy native land, when the Father caught up the mountain from the earth and lifted it to the skies, then hurled it far and wide upon the hapless cities.^e

I too, when I knocked at the groves of song and

^e Statius's father had written a poem on the fighting on the Capitol in 69, and was planning one on the eruption of Vesuvius in 79.

pulsantem, cum stirpe tua descendere dixi, 210
 admisere deae ; nec enim mihi sidera tantum
 aequoraque et terras, quae mos debere parenti,
 sed decus hoc quodcumque lyrae primusque dedisti
 non vulgare loqui et famam sperare sepulcro.
 qualis eras, Latios quotiens ego carmine patres 215
 mulcerem felixque tui spectator adesses
 muneris ! heu quali confusus gaudia fletu
 vota piosque metus inter laetumque pudorem !
 quam tuus ille dies, quam non mihi gloria maior !
 talis Olympiaca iuvenem cum spectat harena 220
 qui genuit, plus ipse ferit, plus corde sub alto
 caeditur ; attendunt cunei, spectatur Achaeis¹
 ille magis, crebro dum lumina pulveris haustu
 obruit et prensa vovet exspirare corona.
 ei mihi quod tantum patrias ego vertice frondes 225
 solaque Chalcidicae Cerealia dona coronae
 te sub teste tuli ! qualem te Dardanus Albae
 vix cepisset ager, si per me sarta tulisses
 Caesarea donata manu ! quod subdere robur
 illa dies, quantum potuit dempsisse senectae ! 230
 nam quod me mixta quercus non pressit oliva,
 et fugit speratus honos : quam² dulce parentis
 invia³ Tarpei caperes ! te nostra magistro
 Thebais urgebat priscorum exordia vatum ;
 tu cantus stimulare meos, tu pandere facta 235

¹ Achaeis *Imhof* : achates *M* : Acestes *Dom*.

² quam *Baehrens* : qua *M*.

³ invia *Ellis* : invida *M*.

^a *Cf.* iii. 5. 28 n.

^b The wreath of ears of corn won at the Augustalia at Naples ; for "patrias" *cf.* note on iv. 8. 45.

^c The oak-wreath of the Capitoline (Tarpeian) contest was not joined to the olive-wreath of the Alban contest, see note 322

the glens of Boeotia, and claimed myself thy offspring, was given entrance by the goddesses ; for it was not only sky and sea and land that thou didst give me, the due and wonted gift of parents, but this glory of the lyre, such as it is, and thou first taughtest me no common utterance, and to hope for fame even in the tomb. What was thy pride, so oft as I charmed the Latian fathers with my song, while thou wert present, a happy witness of thy own bounty ! What confusion of delight and tears was thine, of hope and loving fear and modest joy ! That was indeed thy day, the glory as much thine as mine ! Such is the father that beholds his son upon Olympian sand, he strikes each blow himself more mightily, deeper in his heart's depth does he receive the stroke ; 'tis he whom the crowded tiers are watching, he on whom the Achaeans gaze, while his eyes grow dim with the whirling dust, and he prays to die so but the prize be grasped. Alas ! that in thy sight I bore only native chaplets on my brow,^a and only Ceres' gift of the Chalcidic wreath.^b How proud hadst thou been, scarce had thy Dardan estate of Alba held thee, if through me thou hadst won a garland given by Caesar's hand ! What strength had that day ministered to thee, what relief to thy old age ! For in that the oak and olive together did not press my brow, and the hoped-for prize eluded me—ah ! how gladly hadst thou received the Tarpeian Father's unattainable reward !^c Under thy guidance my *Thebard* followed the footsteps of ancient bards ; thou didst teach me to give vigour

on iii. 5. 28. If the reading of M "invida" be retained, the passage might be rendered "how gently did you receive the grudging decision," etc.

STATIUS

heroum bellicque modos positusque locorum
 monstrabas. labat incerto mihi limite cursus
 te sine et orbatae caligant vela carinae.
 nec solum larga memet pietate fovcbas :
 talis et in thalamos. una tibi cognita taeda 240
 conubia, unus amor. certe seiungere matrem
 iam gelidis nequeo bustis ; te sentit habetque,
 te videt et tumulos ortuque obituque salutat,
 ut Pharios aliae ficta pietate dolores
 Mygdoniosque colunt et non sua funera plorant. 245
 Quid referam expositos servato pondere mores ?
 quae pietas, quam vile lucrum, quae cura pudoris,
 quantus amor recti ? rursusque, ubi dulce remitti,
 gratia quae dictis ? animo quam nulla senectus ?
 his tibi pro meritis famam laudesque benignas 250
 iudex¹ cura deum nulloque e vulnere tristem
 concessit. raperis, genitor, non indigus aevi,
 non nimius, trinisque decem quinquennia lustris
 iuncta ferens. sed me pietas numerare dolorque
 non sinit, o Pylias aevi transcendere metas 255
 et Teucros aequare senes, o digne videre
 me similem¹ sed nec leti tibi ianua tristis :
 quippe leves causae, nec segnis labe senili
 exitus instanti praemisit membra sepulcro,
 sed te torpor iners et mors imitata quietem 260
 explicuit falsoque tulit sub Tartara somno.
 quos ego tunc gemitus,—comitum manus anxia vidit,
 vidit et exemplum genetrix gavisaeque novit—

¹ iudex *M* : vindex *Aldine*.

^a The reference is to the lamentation that formed part of the cults of Isis and Cybele, when Osiris and Attis were bewailed ; cf. "the women weeping for Thammuz." *i.e.* Adonis. Pharian and Mygdonian = Egyptian and Phrygian.

^b *i.e.*, of Nestor, who lived through three generations.

to my song, to describe heroic deeds and modes of war and the setting of the scene. Without thee my course wavers and runs uncertainly, and mist shrouds the sails of my lonely craft. Nor was it I alone thy bountiful love did cherish: such wert thou too toward thy spouse. Thou knewest the torches of but one wedlock: one passion alone inspired thee. Assuredly I cannot separate my mother from thy cold tomb: there doth she feel and know thy presence, she sees thee, and morn and eve salutes thy grave, as other women in feigned loyalty attend on Pharian or Mygdonian grief, and bewail an alien death.^a

Why should I tell of thy frank, yet earnest nature? thy loving heart, thy contempt of gain, thy care for honour, thy passion for the right? and yet again, when it pleased thee to relax, of the charm of thy converse? of thy mind that knew no age? For these deserts of thine the ruling providence of the gods has granted thee renown and kindly fame, and saved thee from the sadness of any blow. Thou art taken, father, not lacking years, nor overburdened; ten spaces of five years hast thou added to three lustres. But grief and affection suffer me not to count thy days, O thou who wert worthy to surpass the Pylian^b bounds of life and equal a Priam's age, worthy to see me too as old! But the gate of death was not dark for thee: gentle was thy passing, nor did a tardy end fore-ordain thy frame in senile dissolution to the ever-threatening grave, but a tranquil unconsciousness and death that counterfeited slumber set free thy soul, and bore thee to Tartarus under the false semblance of repose. Ah! what groans I uttered then! my friends saw me with anxiety, my mother saw me and rejoiced to recognize her son. What

quae lamenta tuli ! veniam concedite, manes,
 fas dixisse, pater : non tu mihi plura dedisses. 265
 felix ille patrem vacuis circumdedit ulnis :
 vellet et Elysia quamvis in sede locatum
 abripere et Danaas iterum portare per umbras ;
 temptantem et vivos molitum in Tartara gressus
 detulit infernae vates longaeva Dianae ; 270
 sic chelyn Odrysiam pigro transmisit Averno
 causa minor, sic Thessalicis Admetus in oris ;
 si lux¹ una retro Phylaceida rettulit umbram,
 cur nihil exoret, genitor, chelys aut tua manes
 aut mea ? fas mihi sic patrios contingere vultus, 275
 fas iunxisse manus, et lex quaecumque sequatur.

At vos, umbrarum reges Ennaeaeque² Iuno,
 si laudanda precor, taedas auferte comasque
 Eumenidum ; nullo sonet asper ianitor ore,
 Centauros Hydraeque greges Scyllaeaeque monstra
 aversae celent valles, umbramque senilem 281
 invitet ripis, discussa plebe, supremus
 vector et in media componat molliter alga.
 ite, pii manes Graumque examina vatum,
 inlustremque animam Lethaeis spargite sertis 285
 et monstrate nemus, quo nulla inrupit Erinys,
 in quo falsa dies caeloque similimus aer.
 inde tamen venias, melior qua porta malignum
 cornea vincit ebur, somnique in imagine monstra,

¹ si lux *Heinsius* : silua *M* : sic lux *Vollmer*. *Lacuna before this line acc. to Postgate.*

² Ennaeaeque *Gronovius* : aecneaeque *M* : Aetnaeaeque *Pol.*

^a The allusion is to Aeneas, who carried his father through the darkness of the night when the Greeks took Troy ; he embraced his phantom in the underworld.

^b Orpheus sought Eurydice, Hercules sought Alcestis.

^c See note on u. 7. 122.

lamentation did I make ! Pardon me, O shades ; father, I may say it with truth : thou wouldst not have wept more for me ! Happy was he who grasped his sire with ineffectual arms ; ay, he would fain have snatched him away, though set in Elysium, and carried him once more through Danaan darkness : ^a and when he made essay and strove to walk with living steps to the underworld, the aged priestess of Diana, goddess of the dead, conducted him. Even so a lesser cause brought the Odrysian lyre to sluggish Avernus : so was it with Admetus in the land of Thessaly.^b If one day brought back the shade of Protesilaus,^c why should thy harp or mine, O father, win no request of the underworld ? Might I but touch the face of my sire, might I but grasp his hand with mine, let any law that will o’ertake me !

But do ye, O monarchs of the dead and thou, Ennean Juno,^d if ye approve my prayer, send far away the Furies’ brands and snaky locks ! Let the warder of the gate make no fierce barking, let distant vales conceal the Centaurs and Hydra’s multitude and Scylla’s monstrous horde, and, scattering the throng,—let the ferryman of the dead invite to the bank the aged shade, and lay him gently to rest amid the grasses. Go, spirits of the blest and troops of Grecian bards, shower Lethæan garlands on the illustrious soul, and point him to the grove where no Fury disturbs, where there is day like ours and air most like to the air of heaven. Thence mayst thou pass to where the better gate of horn o’ercomes the envious ivory,^e and in the semblance of a dream teach me what thou wert ever wont to teach. Even so

^a Proserpine, carried off from the fields of Enna.

^e See Virg. *Aen.* vi. 894.

STATIUS

quae solitus. sic sacra Numae ritusque colendos 290
 mitis Aricino dictabat nympha sub antro,
 Scipio sic plenos Latio Iove ducere somnos
 creditur Ausonius, sic¹ non sine Apolline Sylla

IV. SOMNUS

Crimine quo merui, iuvenis placidissime divum,
 quove errore miser, donis ut solus egerem,
 Somne, tuis? tacet omne pecus volucresque feraeque
 et simulant fessos curvata cacumina somnos,
 nec trucibus fluviis idem sonus; occidit horror 5
 aequoris, et terris maria adclinata quiescunt.
 septima iam rediens Phoebe mihi respicit aegras
 stare genas; totidem Oetaeae Paphiaeque revisunt²
 lampades et totiens nostros Tithonia questus
 praeterit et gelido spargit miserata flagello. 10
 unde ego sufficiam? non si mihi lumina mille,
 quae sacer alterna tantum statione tenebat
 Argus et haud umquam vigilabat corpore toto
 at nunc heu! si aliquis longa sub nocte puellae
 brachia nexa tenens ultro te, Somne, repellit, 15
 inde veni nec te totas infundere pennas
 luminibus compello meis—hoc turba precetur
 laetior—: extremo me tange cacumine virgae,
 sufficit, aut leviter suspenso poplite transi.

¹ sic *Sudhaus*: nec *M*.

² revisunt *Dom.*: revisent *M*: resident *Baehrens*.

^a For Numa and Egeria see *Livy*, i. 19. 5.

^b Scipio was accustomed to visit the temple of Jupiter on the Capitol, where he was said to have communion with the god. Sulla always wore a small image of Apollo, under whose protection he held himself to be.

^c *i.e.*, the evening and the morning stars, often spoken of by the ancients as shining on the same day. "Paphiae,"

the gentle Nymph ordained for Numa ^a in the Arician grot the sacred rites for his observing, so—as the Ausonians believe—had Scipio nightly visions full of Latian Jove, so too was Sulla not without Apollo.^b

IV. TO SLEEP

O youthful Sleep, gentlest of the gods, by what crime or error of mine have I deserved that I alone should lack thy bounty? Silent are all the cattle, and the wild beasts and the birds, and the curved mountain summits have the semblance of weary slumber, nor do the raging torrents roar as they were wont; the ruffled waves have sunk to rest, and the sea leans against earth's bosom and is still. Seven times now hath the returning moon beheld my fixed and ailing eyes; so often have the lights of Oeta and Paphos ^c revisited me, so oft hath Tithonia passed by my groans, and pitying sprinkled me with her cool whip.^d Ah! how may I endure? Not if I had the thousand eyes of sacred ^e Argus, which he kept but in alternate watchfulness, nor ever waked in all his frame at once. But now—ah, me!—if some lover through the long hours of night is clasping a girl's entwining arms, and of his own will drives thee from him, come thence, O Sleep! nor do I bid thee shower all the influence of thy wings upon my eyes—that be the prayer of happier folk!—touch me but with thy wand's extremest tip—'tis enough—or pass over me with lightly hovering step.

i.e. the planet of Paphian Venus; "Oetaeae," from Virg. *Ecl.* viii. 30.

^a The whip is that with which she chases the stars, *cf.* *Theb.* viii. 274; from it fall drops of dew upon the wakeful poet

^c "sacer," as being sent by Juno.

V. EPICEDION IN PUERUM SUUM

Me miserum ! neque enim verbis solemmbus ulla
incipiam nunc¹ Castaliae vocalibus undis
invisus Phoeboque gravis. quae vestra, sorores,
orgia, Pieriae, quas incestavimus aras ?
dicite, post poenam liceat commissa fateri. 5
numquid inaccessu posui vestigia luco ?
num vetito de fonte bibi ? quae culpa, quis error
quem luimus tantus² ? morientibus ecce lacertis
viscera nostra tenens animamque avellitur infans,
non de stirpe quidem nec qui mea nomina ferret 10
oraeque ; non fueram genitor, sed cernite fletus
liventesque genas et credite planctibus orbi :
orbis ego. huc patres et aperto pectore matres
convenient ; cineremque oculis et crimina ferto,
si qua sub uberibus plenis ad funera natos 15
ipsa gradu labente tulit madidumque cecidit
pectus et ardentes restinxit lacte favillas.³
quisquis adhuc tenerae signatum flore iuventae
immersit cineri iuvenem primaque iacentis
serpere crudeles vidit lanugine flammās, 20
adsit et alterno mecum clamore fatiscat :
vincetur lacrimis, et te, Natura, pudebit.
tanta mihi feritas, tanta est insania luctus.
hoc quoque cum nitor ter⁴ dena luce peracta
adclinis tumulto et planctus⁵ in carmina verto 25

¹ nunc *Scriverius* : nec *M.*

² tantus *Pol.* · tantis *M.*

³ favillas *Dom.* : papillas *M.*

⁴ nitor ter *Gronovius* : nī . . . ter *M.*

⁵ tumulto et planctus *Krohn* : tumult . . . nectus *M.*

V. A LAMENT FOR HIS ADOPTED SON

That this epicedion would have rivalled in length ii. 1 and v. 3 may be gathered from the prelude, ll. 1-65. The poet appears to have keenly felt the loss of his adopted son, if we may judge from the last lines of this fragment.

Woe is me! for with no hallowed words can I begin, hateful now as I am to Castalia's vocal streams and detested of Phoebus. What rites of yours, Pierian sisters, what altars have I violated? Speak; after the punishment let the crime be known. Have I set foot in some untrodden grove? or drunk from a forbidden spring? what fault, what error so great that I am atoning? Lo! as with dying arms he clings to my heart, ay, to my very soul, my child is torn away: no child of my own blood, or bearing my name or features; his sire I was not, but look upon my woe and my livid cheeks, and give credence, O ye bereaved, to my lament: for verily bereaved am I. Let fathers come hither, and mothers with open bosom; and let her endure to behold these ashes and this crime, whoever with tottering step has borne her sons to the grave in her own arms beneath full breasts, and beaten a teeming bosom, and quenched with her milk the glowing embers; whoever has plunged into the fire a lad still marked with the bloom of tender youth, and seen the cruel flames creep over the fresh down of the dead boy—let him come and grow weary with me in alternate wailing; his tears will be outdone, and thou wilt feel shame, O Nature. So fierce am I, so senseless in my grief. And while I thus strive, now when thirty days are past, leaning against the tomb I turn my mourning

STATIUS

discordesque modos et¹ singultantia verba²
 molior : orsa lyrae vis³ est atque ira tacendi
 impatiens. sed nec solitae mihi vertice laurus
 nec fronti vittatus honos. en taxea marcet
 silva comis, hilaesque hederas plorata cupressus 30
 excludit ramis ; nec eburno pollice chordas
 pulso, sed incertam digitis errantibus amens
 scindo chelyn. iuvat heu, iuvat inlaudabile carmen
 fundere et inkompte miserum nudare⁴ dolorem.
 sic merui ? sic me cantuque habituque nefastum 35
 aspiciant superi ? pudeat Thebasque novumque
 Aeaciden ? nil iam placidum manabit ab ore ?
 ille ego qui—quotiens !—blande matrumque patrumsque

vulnera, qui viduos potui mulcere dolores,
 ille ego lugentum mitis solator, acerbis 40
 auditus tumulis et descendentibus umbris,
 deficio medicasque manus fomentaque quaero
 vulneribus, sed summa, meis. nunc tempus, amici,
 quorum ego manantes oculos et saucia tersi
 pectora : reddite opem, saevas exsolvite grates. 45
 nimirum cum vestra modis ego funera maestis⁵

increpitans : “ qui damna doles aliena, reponere
 infelix lacrimas et tristia carmina serva.”
 verum erat : absumptae vires et copia fandi
 nulla mihi, dignumque nihil mens fulmine tanto 50
 repperit : inferior vox omnis et omnia sordent

¹ modos et 5 : m . . . M.

² verba M : acerbis *Phillimore*.

³ lyrae vis *Krohn* : ly . . M : lyra vox *Davies*. *Most*
edd. punctuate after molior : *Phillimore* lyra : satis est.

⁴ nudare *Markland* : laudare M.

into verse, and contrive discordant strains, and words that are but sobs ; the power of my lyre is awake, its spirit brooks not silence. But no wonted bays are on my head, no chaplet's glory on my brow. Behold, the yew-sprays wither on my hair, and the lamentable cypress-leaves exclude the cheerful ivy, nor do I strike the chords with quill of ivory, but with errant fingers tear distractedly my uncertain harp. I delight, ay, alas ! delight to pour forth hateful strains, and to lay bare my wretched grief in random utterance. Is such my desert ? Must the gods behold me thus with the garb and music of woe ? Must Thebes and young Achilles^a be put to shame ? Will calm utterance flow nevermore from my lips ? Yet I am he who was able—how many a time !—to soothe by appeasing words the pain of mother and of sire, and the sorrow of bereavement ; I, the gentle consoler of the afflicted, whose voice was heard in the hour of untimely death by spirits departing, I now am at a loss, and seek healing hands and remedies, ay, the most powerful, for my wounds. Now is the time, my friends, whose streaming eyes and pierced breasts I stanch'd ; bring me succour, pay your debt of frenzied gratitude. Doubtless when I in sad strains <bewailed> your losses <one among you spake> rebuking : “ Thou who dost grieve for others' loss, preserve thy ill-omened tears, and keep thy melancholy song.” ’Twas true : exhausted are my powers, I have no store of speech, my mind can find nought to match so great a blow : too feeble is all my music,

^a His *Thebaid* and recently begun *Achilleid*.

⁵ *vestra modis . . . maestis* Klotz (but in his edition he follows *M*) : *vestra domus . . . maestus M. Baehrens* recognized lacuna after 46, so all edd.

STATIUS

verba. ignosce, puer : tu me caligine maesta
 obruis. a¹ durus,¹ viso si vulnere carae
 coniugis invenit caneret quod Thracius Orpheus
 dulce sibi, si busta Lini complexus Apollo 55
 non tacuit. nimius fortasse avidusque doloris
 dicor et in lacrimis iustum excessisse pudorem ?
 quisnam autem gemitus lamentaque nostra reprehendis² ?
 o nimium felix, nimium crudelis et expers
 imperii, Fortuna, tui, qui dicere legem 60
 fletibus aut fines audet censere dolendi !
 incitat heu ! planctus ; potius fugientia ripas
 flumina detineas rapidis aut ignibus obstes,
 quam miseros lugere vetes. tamen ille severus,
 quisquis is est, nostrae cognoscat vulnera causae. 65
 Non ego mercatus Pharia de puppe loquaces
 delicias³ doctumque sui convicia Nili
 infantem, lingua nimium⁴ salibusque protervum,
 dilexi : meus ille, meus. tellure cadentem
 aspexi atque unctum genitali carmine fovi 70
 poscentemque novas tremulis ululatibus auras
 inserui vitae. quid plus tribuere parentes ?
 quin alios ortus libertatemque sub ipsis
 uberibus tibi, parve, dedi, cum⁵ munera nostra
 rideres ingratus adhuc. properaverit ille, 75
 sed merito properabat, amor, ne perderet ullum
 libertas tam parva diem. nonne horridus inde⁶
 invidia superos iniustaue Tartara pulsem ?

¹ durus *Pol.* : duro *M.*

² reprehendis *Pol.* . rependis *M.*, *Pol.* (from *P.*).

³ delicias *Avanti* : aedituas *M.*

⁴ nimium *Markland* : sumum *M.* : eximum *Waller*.

⁵ cum *Pol.* : heu *M.*

⁶ ullum, inde *Baehrens* : om. *M.*

^a A favourite of Apollo who died young.

^b Probably a reference to the solemn purification of the

no word but is unworthy. Forgive me, lad : 'tis thou dost cloud my mind with sorrow. Ah ! verily hard of heart was Thracian Orpheus, if he found a song that pleased him when he saw the wound of his dear spouse, and Apollo, if holding the corpse of Linus ^a in his arms he was not mute ! Too violent am I called perchance and greedy of woe, and extravagant beyond due measure in my weeping ? Who art thou that blamest my groans and tears ? Ah ! too happy he, and heartless, and ignorant, Fortune, of thy law, who dares to set conditions to lamentation, or adjudge the bounds of grief ! Alas ! mourning incites to mourn : sooner wilt thou check the rivers that hurry past their banks or stay devouring fire than forbid the sorrowful to lament. Yet let him learn, that severe judge, whoe'er he be, my wound and my complaint

No chattering favourite was it, bought from a Pharian vessel, no infant skilled in the repartee of his native Nile, with over-ready tongue and impudent wit, that won my heart ; mine was he, mine indeed. When he lay on the ground, a new-born babe, I saw him, and with a natal ode I welcomed his anointing,^b and as with tremulous wailing he claimed his new heritage of air, I set him among living souls. What more did his own parents give ? Nay, another birth I gave thee, little one, and thy liberty while yet at the breast, though yet thou didst laugh ungrateful at my gift. Hasty my love may have been, yet with good reason so, lest even a day be lost to so tiny a freedom. And shall I not then all unkempt hurl my reproaches at the gods and at unjust Tartarus ? Shall child on the ninth day after birth ; "inserui" perhaps of formal registration.

STATIUS

nonne gemam te, care puer? quo sospite natos
 non cupiī, primo genitum quem protinus ortu 80
 implicui fixique¹ mihi, cui verba sonosque
 monstravi questusque et vulnera caeca resolvi,²
 reptantemque solo demissus ad oscula nostra
 erexi, blandoque sinu iam iamque cadentes³
 exsopire⁴ genas dulcesque accersere somnos. 85
 cui nomen vox prima meum ludusque tenello
 risus, et a nostro veniebant gaudia vultu.

STATII DE BELLO GERMANICO FRAGMENTUM

lumina : Nestorei mitis prudentia Crispi
 et Fabius Veiento — potentem signat utrumque
 purpura, ter memores implerunt nomine fastos —
 et prope Caesareae confinis Acilius aulae.

¹ quem . . . implicui fixique *Pol.* : qui . . . implicuit fixitque *M.*

² resolvi *ς* : ne solvam *M.* : resolvens *Markland.*

³ cadentes *Baehrens* : om. *M.* : natantes *ς*.

⁴ exsopire *Vollmer* : exceperere *M.* : exceptare, excipere *ipse, etc. edd.*

^a It is not clear what should be read for "exceperere", for historic infinitives to avoid succession of past tenses *cf.* ii. l. 122.

^b These lines are quoted by Valla, commenting on Juvenal, *Sat.* iv. 94, and are the only evidence we have for this work of Statius.

^c Crispus is probably Vibius Crispus, whom Quintilian mentions as "vir ingenii iucundi et elegantis" (v. 13. 48).

I not mourn for thee, dear lad? Whilst thou didst live,
 I desired no sons, thou wert my first-born and from
 thy very birth I bound thee to myself and made thee
 truly mine; I taught thee sounds and words, and
 soothed thy complainings and thy hidden hurts, and
 as thou didst crawl on the ground, I stooped and
 lifted thee to my kisses, and lovingly in my bosom
 lulled to sleep thy drooping eyes,^a and bade sweet
 slumber take thee. My name was thy first speech,
 my play thy infant happiness, and my countenance
 was the source of all thy joy. . . .

FRAGMENT OF A POEM ON THE WAR IN GERMANY^b

. . . lights: the gentle wisdom of Nestor-like
 Crispus,^c and Fabius Veiento^d—the purple marks
 each as eminent, thrice have they filled the recording
 annals with their names—and Acilius,^e near neigh-
 bour of Caesar's palace.

Juvenal also describes him (iv. 81) "venit et Crispi iucunda
 senectus | cuius erant mores qualis facundia, mite | ingenium";
cf. Tac. *Hist.* ii. 10.

^a If Fabius Veiento is the same as Fabricius Veiento, he
 was notorious as an informer under Domitian; he too is
 mentioned by Juvenal (iv. 113, iii. 185, vi. 113).

^e Acilius Glabrio and his father were present, with the two
 preceding, at the famous council of the Turbot (Juv. iv.),
 the former was a contemporary of Crispus, the latter (men-
 tioned here) was consul with Trajan in 91, and subsequently
 put to death by Domitian.

THEBAID

THEBAIDOS

LIBER I

Fraternas acies alternaque regna profanis
decertata odiis sontesque evolvere Thebas,
Pierius menti calor incidit. unde iubetis
ire, deae ? gentisne canam primordia dirae,
Sidonios raptus et inexorabile pactum 5
legis Agenoreae scrutantemque aequora Cadmum ?
longa retro series, trepidum si Martis operti
agricolam infandis condentem proelia sulcis
expediam penitusque sequar, quo carmine muris
iusserit Amphion Tyrios accedere montes, 10
unde graves irae cognata in moenia Baccho,
quod saevae Iunonis opus, cui sumpserit arcus
infelix Athamas, cur non expaverit ingens
Ionium socio casura Palaemone mater.
atque adeo iam nunc gemitus et prospera Cadmi 15
praeteriisse sinam : limes mihi carminis esto
Oedipodae confusa domus, quando Itala nondum

^a For the situation at the opening of the Epic and its plot see Introduction.

^b Cadmus, son of Agenor, king of Phoenicia, was sent by his father in search of Europa when carried off by Zeus in the form of a bull ; he subsequently founded Thebes, and sowed the dragon's teeth there ; hence "anxious husband-man," etc.

^c Juno's jealousy caused the death of Semele, mother of

THEBAID

BOOK I ^a

My spirit is touched by Pierian fire to recount the strife of brethren, and the battle of the alternate reign fought out with impious hatred, and all the guilty tale of Thebes. Whence, O goddesses, do ye bid me begin?—Shall I sing the origins of the dreadful race, the Sidonian rape and the inexorable terms of Agenor's law, and Cadmus searching o'er the main? ^b Far backward runs the story, should I tell of the anxious husbandman of hidden war, sowing battles in the unhallowed soil, and, searching to the uttermost, relate with what song Amphion bade the Tyrian mountains move to form a city's walls, whence came Bacchus' grievous wrath against his kindred towers; what deed fierce Juno wrought; against whom unhappy Athamas caught up his bow, and why with Palaemon in her arms his mother quailed not to leap into the vast Ionian sea.^c Nay rather here and now I will suffer the sorrows and the joys of Cadmus to have gone by: let the troubled house of Oedipus set a limit to ^d my song, since not yet may I venture to

Bacchus, Athamas went mad and slew his son Learchus, Ino leapt with Palaemon into the sea. Ino and Semele were daughters of Cadmus.

^a Or, "be the track, the course of."

STATIUS

signa nec Arctos ausim spirare¹ triumphos
 bisque iugo Rhenum, bis adactum legibus Histrum
 et coniurato deiectos vertice Dacos 20
 aut defensa prius vix pubescentibus annis
 bella Iovis teque, o² Latiae decus addite famae,
 quem nova mature³ subeuntem exorsa parentis
 aeternum sibi Roma cupit. licet artior omnis
 limes agat stellas et te plaga lucida caeli, 25
 Pleiadum Boreaeque et hiulci fulminis experts,
 sollicitet, licet ignipedum frenator equorum
 ipse tuis alte radiantem crinibus arcum
 imprimat aut magni cedat tibi Iuppiter aequa
 parte poli, maneat hominum contentus habenis, 30
 undarum terraeque potens, et sidera dones.
 tempus erit, cum Pierio⁴ tua fortior oestro
 facta canam : nunc tendo chelyn satis arma referre
 Aonia et geminis sceptrum exitiale tyrannis
 nec furiis post fata modum flammisque rebelles 35
 seditione rogi tumulisque carentia regum
 funera et egestas alternis mortibus urbes,
 caerula cum rubuit Lernaeo sanguine Dirce
 et Thetis arentes adsuetum stringere ripas
 horruit ingenti venientem Ismenon acervo. 40
 quem prius heroum, Clío, dabis ? immodicum irae

¹ spirare, *P1*, *Heinsius*, *Bentley* : sperare *Pw*.

² teque o *P* (*with u written over the first e*) : tuque o ω , tuque ut *Lachmann*.

³ mature *Lachmann* : maturi *Pw*.

⁴ Pierio *P* (*laurigero written over by a later hand*) : laurigero ω .

^a The reference is to Domitian's campaigns against Germans and Dacians, and to the part he took in the fighting on the Capitol between Flavians and Vitellians in A.D. 69.

utter the theme of the standards of Italy and the triumphs of the North, or Rhine twice brought beneath our yoke and Ister twice subject to our law and the Dacians hurled down from their conspiring mount, or how in those days of scarce-approaching manhood Jove was forfended from attack,^a and of thee, O glory added to the Latian name, whom succeeding early to thy sire's latest exploits Rome longs to be her own for ever. Yea, though a closer bound confine the stars, and the shining quarter of the sky ^b that knows nought of Pleiads or Boreas or rending thunderbolt tempt thee, though he who curbs the fiery-footed steeds set with his own hand upon thy locks the exalted radiance of his diadem, or Jupiter yield thee an equal portion of the great heaven, abide contented with the governance of men, thou lord of earth and sea, and give constellations to the sky.^c A time will come when emboldened by Pierian frenzy I shall recount thy deeds: now do I pitch my harp but to the singing of Aonian ^d arms and the sceptre fatal to both tyrants; of their madness unchecked by death and the strife of flames in the dissension of the funeral pyre; ^e of kings' bodies lacking burial and cities drained by mutual slaughter, when the dark-blue waters of Dirce blushed red with Lernaean gore, and Thetis stood aghast at Ismenos, once wont to graze arid banks, flowing down with mighty heaps of slain. Which hero first dost thou make my theme, O Clio? Tydeus, uncontrolled in

^b The south.

^c By deifying members of the Imperial house; the idea of stars being divine spirits is an old one in mythology, *e.g.* Castor and Pollux; it is also found in Plato and his successors.

^d Boeotian, *i.e.* Theban.

^e See xii. 429.

STATIUS

Tydea ? laurigeri subitos an vatis hiatus ?
 urget et hostilem propellens caedibus amnem
 turbidus Hippomedon, plorandaque bella protervi
 Arcados atque alio Capaneus horrore canendus. 45
 Impia iam merita scrutatus lumina dextra
 merserat aeterna damnatum nocte pudorem
 Oedipodes longaue animam sub morte¹ tenebat.
 illum indulgentem tenebris imaeque recessu
 sedis inaspectos caelo radiisque penates 50
 servantem tamen adsiduis circumvolat alis
 saeva dies animi, scelerumque in pectore Dirae.
 tunc vacuos orbes, crudum ac miserabile vitae
 supplicium, ostentat caelo manibusque cruentis
 pulsat inane solum saevaue ita voce precatur : 55
 “ di, sontes animas angustaque Tartara poenis
 qui regitis, tuque umbrifero Styx livida fundo,
 quam video, multumque mihi consueta vocari
 adnue, Tisiphone, perversaque vota secunda :
 si bene quid merui, si me de matre cadentem 60
 fovisti gremio et traiectum vulnere plantas
 firmasti, si stagna peti Cirrhaea bicorni
 interfusa iugo, possem cum degere falso
 contentus Polybo, trifidaeque in Phocidos arto
 longaevum implicui regem secuique trementis 65

¹ morte *P* : nocte *ω*.

^a Oedipus had torn out his own eyes when he realized that he was guilty of parricide and incest. Statius has in mind the Virgilian “nox atra caput circumvolat” *Aen.* vi. 866 (*cf.* also Hor. *S.* ii. 1. 58), but here it is the “saeva dies” that hovers round.

^b Or, as some take it, “beats upon the empty sockets” ; but to beat on the earth was a recognized way of summoning infernal deities.

wrath ? the sudden chasm that gaped for the laurel-crowned prophet ? Distraught Hippomedon, too, repelling his river-foe with corpses demands my song, and I must lament the gallant Arcadian and his wars, and sing with a yet fiercer thrill the fate of Capaneus.

Already had Oedipus with avenging hand probed deep his sinning eyes and sunk his guilty shame in eternal night, abiding in a long and living death. But while he hugs his darkness and the uttermost seclusion of his dwelling, and keeps his secret chamber which the sun's rays and heaven behold not, yet with unwearied wings the fierce daylight of the mind hovers around him,^a and the Avenging Furies of his crimes assail his heart. Then he displays to heaven those empty orbs, the cruel, pitiful punishment of his life, and with blood-stained hands beats upon the hollow earth,^b and in dire accents utters this prayer : " Gods who hold sway over guilty souls and over Tartarus crowded with the damned, and thou O Styx, whom I behold, ghastly in thy shadowy depths, and thou Tisiphone, so oft the object of my prayer, be favourable now, and further my unnatural wish : if in aught I have found favour ; if thou didst cherish me in thy bosom when I fell from my mother's womb, and didst heal the wounds of my pierced feet ; if I sought the lake of Cirrha where it winds between the two summits of the range,^c when I could have lived contented with the false Polybus, and in the Phocian strait where three ways meet grappled with the aged king and cleft the visage of the trembling dotard,

^a *i.e.*, the Castalian spring at Delphi, beneath the two peaks of Parnassus, where he went to consult the oracle. He was brought up as the son of Polybus, king of Corinth (hence " falso ").

ora senis, dum quaero patrem, si Sphingos iniquae
 callidus ambages te praemonstrante resolvī,
 si dulces furias et lamentabile matris
 conubium gavisus ini noctemque nefandam
 saepe tuli natosque tibi, scis ipsa, paravi, 70
 mox avidus poenae digitis caedentibus ultro
 incubui miseraque oculos in matre reliqui :
 exaudi, si digna precor quaeque ipsa furenti
 subiceres. orbum visu regnisque carentem¹
 non regere aut dictis maerentem flectere adorti, 75
 quos genui quocumque toro ; quin ecce superbi
 —pro dolor !—et nostro iamdudum in funere reges
 insultant tenebris gemitusque odere paternos.
 hisne etiam funestus ego ? et videt ista deorum
 ignavus genitor ? tu saltem debita vindex 80
 huc ades et totos in poenam ordine nepotes.²
 indue quod madidum tabo diadema cruentis
 unguibus abripui, votisque instincta paternis
 i media in fratres, generis consortia ferro
 dissiliant. da, Tartarei regina barathri, 85
 quod cupiam vidisse nefas, nec tarda sequetur
 mens iuvenum ; modo digna veni,³ mea pignora
 nosces.”

Talia dicenti crudelis diva severos
 advertit vultus. inamoenum forte sedebat
 Coccyton iuxta, resolutaque vertice crines 90
 lambere sulpureas permiserat anguibus undas.
 ilicet igne Iovis lapsisque citatior astris
 tristibus exsiluit ripis : discedit inane

¹ carentem *PL* : parentem *ω*.

² totos in poenam, nepotes *Pω*. poenam in totos *Baehrens*, penates *Ed.* *Parmensis*.

³ modo digna veni *Pω* : modo dira *Lachmann* : modo diva *Mueller* : mens iuvenum, me digna : veni *Garrod conj.*

searching for my true sire; if by wit of thy fore-showing I solved the riddles of the cruel Sphinx; if I knew exulting the sweet ecstasy and fatal union of my mother's bed, and passed many an unhallowed night, and begot sons for thee, as well thou knowest, yet soon, greedy for punishment, did violence to myself with tearing fingers and left my eyes upon my wretched mother—hear me to the end, if my prayer be worthy and such as thou wouldest inspire my raging heart withal. Sightless though I was and driven from my throne, my sons, on whatever couch begotten, attempted not to give me guidance or consolation in my grief; nay, haughtily (ah! the maddening sting!) and raised to royalty with me long dead, they mock my blindness and abhor their father's groans. Do these too hold me accursed? and the father of gods beholds it, and does naught? Do thou at least, my due defender, come hither, and begin a work of vengeance that will blast their seed for ever! Set on thy head the gore-drenched circlet that my bloody nails tore off, and inspired by their father's curses go thou between the brethren, and with the sword sunder the binding ties of kinship. Grant me, thou queen of Tartarus' abyss, grant me to see the evil that my soul desires, nor will the spirit of the youths be slow to follow; come thou but worthy of thyself, thou shalt know them to be true sons of mine."

So prayed he, and the cruel goddess turned her grim visage to hearken. By chance she sat beside dismal Cocytus, and had loosed the snakes from her head and suffered them to lap the sulphurous waters. Straightway, faster than fire of Jove or falling stars she leapt up from the gloomy bank: the crowd of

STATIUS

vulgus et occursus dominae pavet ; illa per umbras
 et caligantes animarum examine campos 95
 Taenariae limen petit inremeabile portae.
 sensit adesse Dies, piceo Nox obvia nimbo
 lucentes turbavit equos ; procul arduus Atlas
 horruit et dubia caelum cervice remisit.
 arripit extemplo Maleae de valle resurgens 100
 notum iter ad Thebas ; neque enim velocior ullas
 itque reditque vias cognatave Tartara mavult.
 centum illi stantes umbrabant ora cerastae,
 turba minax¹ diri capitis ; sedet intus abactis
 ferrea lux oculis, qualis per nubila Phoebes 105
 Atracia rubet arte labor ; suffusa veneno
 tenditur ac sane gliscit cutis ; igneus atro
 ore vapor, quo longa sitis morbique famesque
 et populis mors una venit ; riget horrida tergo
 palla, et caerulei redeunt in pectora nodi : 110
 Atropos hos atque ipsa novat Proserpina cultus.
 tunc geminas quatit ira manus : haec igne rogali
 fulgurat, haec vivo manus aera verberat hydro
 Ut stetit, abrupta qua plurimus arce Cithaeron
 occurrit caelo, fera sibila crine virenti 115
 congeminat, signum terris, unde omnis Achaei
 ora maris late Pelopeaque regna resultant.
 audiit et medius caeli Parnassos et asper
 Eurotas, dubiamque iugo fragor impulit Oeten

¹ minax *Lachmann* : minor *Pw.*

^a A promontory in Laconia, which had a cave supposed to be an entrance to the underworld.

^b Edd. who keep "minor" explain either as the lesser half of the crowd of snakes, or as the small fry, compared with the big snake in the Fury's hand (113).

^c *i.e.*, Thessalian. Thessaly was famous for magic spells and witches, *cf.* iii. 140.

phantoms gives way before her, fearing to meet their queen ; then, journeying through the shadows and the fields dark with trooping ghosts, she hastens to the gate of Taenarus,^a whose threshold none may cross and again return. Day felt her presence, Night interposed her pitchy cloud and startled his shining steeds ; far off towering Atlas shuddered and shifted the weight of heaven upon his trembling shoulders. Forthwith rising aloft from Malea's vale she hies her on the well-known way to Thebes : for on no errand is she swifter to go and to return, not kindred Tartarus itself pleases her so well. A hundred horned snakes erect shaded her face, the thronging terror of her awful head ;^b deep within her sunken eyes there glows a light of iron hue, as when Atracian ^c spells make travailing Phoebe redden through the clouds ; suffused with venom, her skin distends and swells with corruption ; a fiery vapour issues from her evil mouth, bringing upon mankind thirst unquenchable and sickness and famine and universal death. From her shoulders falls a stark and grisly robe, whose dark fastenings meet upon her breast : Atropos and Proserpine herself fashion her this garb anew. Then both her hands are shaken in wrath, the one gleaming with a funeral torch, the other lashing the air with a live water-snake.

She halted, where the sheer heights of vast Cithæron rise to meet the sky, and sent forth from her green locks fierce repeated hisses, a signal to the land, whereupon the whole shore of the Achæan gulf and the realm of Pelops echoed far and wide. Parnassus also in mid-heaven heard it, and turbulent Eurotas ; with the din Oete rocked and staggered,

STATIUS

in latus, et geminis vix fluctibus obstitit Isthmos. 120
 ipsa suum genetrix curvo delphine vagantem
 abripuit frenis gremioque Palaemona pressit.

Atque ea Cadmeo praeceps ubi culmine primum
 constitit adsuetaque infecit nube penates,
 protinus adtoniti fratrum sub pectore motus, 125
 gentilesque animos subiit furor aegraque laetis
 invidia atque parens odii metus, inde regendi
 saevus amor, ruptaeque vices iurisque secundi
 ambitus impatiens, et summo dulcius unum¹
 stare loco, sociisque comes discordia regnis. 130
 sic ubi delectos per torva armenta iuvenco
 agricola imposito sociare adfectat aratro,
 illi indignantes, quis nondum vomere multo
 ardua nodosos cervix descendit in armos,
 in diversa trahunt atque aequis vincula laxant 135
 viribus et vario confundunt limite sulcos :
 haud secus indomitos praeceps discordia fratres
 asperat. alterni placuit sub legibus anni
 exsilio mutare ducem. sic iure maligno
 fortunam transire iubent, ut sceptrā tenentem 140
 foedere praecipiti semper novus angeret heres.
 haec inter fratres pietas erat, haec mora pugnae
 sola nec in regem perduratura secundum.
 et nondum crasso laquearia fulva² metallo,
 montibus aut alte Graia effulta nitebant 145
 atria, congestos satis explicitura clientes :
 non impacatis regum advigilantia somnis
 pila, nec alterna ferri statione gementes
 excubiae nec cura mero committere gemmas
 atque aurum violare cibis : sed nuda potestas 150

¹ unum *Pω* : uno *D* : uni *Heinsius*.

² fulva *Pω* : fulta *Mueller*.

^a See note on l. 14.

and Isthmos scarce withstood the waves on either side. With her own hand his mother snatched Palaemon from the curved back of his straying dolphin steed and pressed him to her bosom.^a

Then the Fury, swooping headlong upon the Cadmean towers, straightway cast upon the house its wonted gloom : troubled dismay seized the brothers' hearts and the madness of their race inspired them, and envy that repines at others' happiness, and hate-engendering fear ; and then fierce love of power, and breach of mutual covenant, and ambition that brooks not second place, the dearer joy of sole supremacy, and discord that attends on partnered rule. Even so would a farmer fain unite under the plough-yoke two picked bullocks of the savage herd, but they indignant—for not yet has the frequent coulter bowed those arching necks to the sinewy shoulders—pull contrariwise and with strength well-matched break harness and confound the furrows with divers tracks : not otherwise does furious discord enrage the proud brothers. 'Twas agreed to change rule for exile by the ordinance of the alternate year. By a grudging law they bade their fortunes change, so that a new claimant should ever embitter the monarch's fast-expiring term. No other bond united the brethren, this was their sole stay from arms, nor destined to endure to a second reign. Yet then no ceilings glittered with thick plates of yellow gold, nor did quarried Grecian pillars bear aloft vast halls that could freely spread the serried mass of clients ; no spears kept guard o'er a monarch's troubled slumbers, no sentinels groaned at the recurring duty of the watch ; they thought not to entrust precious stones to the wine-cup, nor to soil gold with food ; 'twas for

armavit fratres, pugna est de paupere regno.
 dumque uter angustae squalentia iugera Dirces
 verteret aut Tyrii solio non altus ovaret
 exsulis ambigitur, perit ius fasque bonumque
 et vitae mortisque pudor. quo tenditis iras, 155
 a, miseri? quid si peteretur crimine tanto
 limes uterque poli, quem Sol emissus Eoo
 cardine, quem portu vergens prospectat Hiberno,
 quasque procul terras obliquo sidere tangit
 avius¹ aut borea gelidas madidive tepentes 160
 igne noti? non si Phrygiae Tyriaque sub unum
 convectentur opes. loca dira arcesque nefandae
 suffecere odio, furisque immanibus emptum
 Oedipodae sedisse loco.

Iam sorte carebat²
 dilatus Polynicis honos. quis tunc tibi, saeve, 165
 quis fuit ille dies, vacua cum solus in aula
 respiceres ius omne tuum cunctosque minores,
 et nusquam par stare caput? iam murmura serpunt
 plebis Echoniae, tacitumque a principe vulgus
 dissidet, et, qui mos populi, venturus amatur. 170
 atque aliquis, cui mens humili laesisse veneno
 summa nec impositos umquam cervice volenti
 ferre duces, "hancne Ogygius," ait, "aspera rebus
 fata tulere vicem, totiens mutare timendos
 alternoque iugo dubitantia subdere colla? 175
 partiti versant populorum fata manuque

¹ avius ω : aut notus *P*.

² carebat *P*ω : cadebat *Bernartius*.

^a *i.e.*, of course, Eteocles.

^b Theban, from Echion, king of Thebes.

^c Theban, from Ogyges, founder of Thebes according to one legend.

naked power the brethren armed, a starveling realm was their cause of battle. And while they dispute which of the twain shall plough scant Dirce's squalid fields, or boast himself on the Tyrian exile's lowly throne, the laws of God and man are broken, righteousness perisheth, and honour both in life and death. Alas ! unhappy ones ! what limits set ye to your wrath ? what if it were the sky's farthest bounds ye dared so impiously, whereon the sun looks when he issues from the eastern gate and when he sinks into his Iberian haven, or the lands he touches afar with slanting devious ray, lands that the North wind freezes or the moist South warms with fiery breath ? nay, even though the wealth of Phrygia and of Tyre were gathered as the prize ! A land of horror and a city God-accursed sufficed to rouse your hatred, and hell's madness was the price of sitting in the seat of Oedipus !

And now by the losing of the hazard Polynices saw his reign deferred. How proud a day for thee, fierce tyrant,^a when alone and unchallenged in thy palae thou didst look and behold all power thine, all other men thy subjects, and never a head but bowed beneath thy sway ! Yet already murmurs are creeping among the Echionian^b folk, the people is at silent variance with its prince, and, as is the wont of a crowd, 'tis the claimant that they love. And one among them, whose chief thought it was to hurt by mean and venomous speech and never to bear the yoke of rulers with submissive neck, said : " Is this the lot that the hard fates have appointed for our Ogygian^c land, so often to change those whom we must fear, and to give uncertain allegiance to an alternate sway ? From hand to hand they toss the

fortunam fecere levem. semperne vicissim
 exsulis servire dabor? tibi, summe deorum
 terrarumque sator, sociis hanc addere mentem
 sedit? an inde vetus Thebis extenditur omen, 180
 ex quo Sidonii nequiquam blanda iuveni
 pondera Carpathio iussus sale quaerere Cadmus
 exsul Hyanteos invenit regna per agros,
 fraternasque acies fetae telluris hiatu
 augurium seros dimisit ad usque nepotes? 185
 cernis, ut erectum torva sub fronte¹ minetur
 saevior adsurgens dempto consorte potestas.
 quas gerit ore minas, quanto premit omnia fastu!
 hicne umquam privatus erit? tamen ille precanti
 mitis et adfatu bonus et patientior aequi. 190
 quid mirum? non solus erat. nos vilis in omnis
 prompta manus casus, domino cuicumque parati.
 qualiter hinc gelidus Boreas, hinc nubifer Euris
 vela trahunt, nutat mediae fortuna carinae,
 —heu dubio suspensa metu tolerandaque nullis 195
 aspera sors populi! —huc imperat, ille minatur.”

At Iovis imperio rapidi super atria caeli
 lectus concilio divum convenerat ordo
 interiore polo. spatiis hinc omnia iuxta,
 primaeque occiduaeque domus et fusa sub omni 200
 terra atque unda die. mediis sese arduus infert
 ipse deis, placido quatiens tamen omnia vultu,
 stellantique locat solio; nec protinus ausi
 caelicolae, veniam donec pater ipse sedendi

¹ sub fronte *Pw*: cervice *D*.

^a Boeotian. See n. on l. 6.

destinies of peoples and of their own accord make Fortune fickle. Am I always to serve princes that take their turn of exile? Is this thy will and purpose for thy kindred realm, great Lord of heaven and earth? Does the ancient augury still have power for Thebes, since Cadmus, bidden search in vain the Carpathian sea for the winsome burden of the Sidonian bull, found an exile's kingdom in the Hyan-tean ^a fields, and in the gaping of the pregnant earth bequeathed the warfare of brethren as an omen to his posterity for ever? See how the tyrant, rid of his colleague, rises erect more fiercely threatening under cruel brows! what terror in his look, how overbearing his pride! will this man ever stoop to subject rank? But the other was gentle to our prayers, affable of speech, and more patient of the right. What wonder? he was not alone. A worthless crowd indeed are we, ready for every chance, at the bidding of every lord, whosoe'er he be! As the sails yield to the cold north wind on this side and to the cloudy east wind on that, and the vessel's fate hangs wavering—alas! for the cruel, intolerable lot of peoples, racked by doubt and fear!—so now one commands and the other threatens."

But now by Jove's command the High Court and chosen council of the gods had assembled in the spacious halls of the revolving sphere, in heaven's innermost depths. Equally removed from hence is the whole world's extent, the abodes of east and west, and earth and sea outspread beneath the infinite sky. Loftily through their midst moves the King himself making all tremble, yet with countenance serene, and takes his seat on the starry throne: nor dare they sit, the heavenly ones, until the sire

tranquilla iubet esse manu. mox turba vagorum 205
 semideum et summis cognati nubibus Amnes
 et compressa metu servantes murmura Venti
 aurea tecta replent. mixta convexa deorum
 maiestate tremunt, radiant maiore sereno
 culmina et arcano florentes lumine postes. 210
 postquam iussa quies siluitque exterritus orbis,
 incipit ex alto—grave et immutabile sanctis
 pondus adest verbis, et vocem fata sequuntur— :
 “ terrarum delicta nec exsaturabile¹ Diris
 ingenium mortale queror. quonam usque nocentum
 exigat in poenas ? taedet saevire corusco 216
 fulmine, iam pridem Cyclopum operosa fatiscunt
 brachia et Aeoliis desunt incudibus ignes.
 atque adeo tuleram falso rectore solutos
 Solis equos, caelumque rotis errantibus uri, 220
 et Phaethontea mundum squalere favilla.
 nil actum, neque tu valida quod cuspide late
 ire per illicitum pelago, germane, dedisti.
 nunc geminas punire domos, quis sanguinis auctor
 ipse ego, descendo. Perseos alter in Argos 225
 scinditur, Aonias fluit hic ab origine Thebas.
 mens cunctis imposta manet² : quis funera Cadmi
 nesciat et totiens excitam a sedibus imis
 Eumenidum bellasse aciem, mala gaudia matrum
 erroresque feros nemorum et reticenda deorum 230
 crimina ? vix lucis spatio, vix noctis abactae

¹ exsaturabile *P*: also *D*, with *exsatiabile* written over: *exsuperabile* w.

² imposta manet *P*ω: infausta, infesta, etc., *edd.*: movet *B Guyet*: manet *D* with movet written over.

^a The slaughter of the armed warriors who sprang from the dragon's teeth.

^b The old commentators took this as purposely ambiguous, crimes committed by or against the gods. The latter mean-

himself with tranquil hand permit them. Next a crowd of wandering demigods and Rivers, of one kin with the high clouds, and Winds, their clamours hushed by fear, throng the golden halls. The arching vaults of heaven are all agleam with majesty, the heights glow with a fuller radiance, and a light that is not of earth blooms upon the portals. When quiet was commanded and heaven's orb fell silent, he began from his lofty throne—the sacred words have authority and power immutable, and Destiny waits upon his voice: "Of Earth's transgressions I complain, and of Man's mind that no Avenging Powers can satiate. Am I ever to be spent in punishing the wicked? I am weary of venting my anger with the flashing brand, long since are the busy arms of the Cyclopes failing, and the fires droop that serve Aeolian anvils. Yea, I had suffered the Sun's steeds to run free of their false driver, and heaven to be burned with their straying wheels and earth to be foul with the ashes that once were Phaethon. Yet naught availed it, nor that thou, brother, didst with thy strong spear send the sea flooding wide over the forbidden land. Now am I descending in punishment on two houses, whereof I am myself progenitor. The one branches from the stem to Persean Argos, the other flows from its source to Aonian Thebes. In all the implanted character abides: who knows not Cadmus' bloodshed^a and the array of warring Furies so oft summoned from the depths of hell, the mothers' unhallowed joys and frenzied ranging of the forests, and the reproaches of gods that must be veiled in silence^b? Scarce would the ing is the easier one, *e.g.* Niobe, Pentheus, Semele, and it is difficult to see what the other could refer to.

STATIUS

enumerare queam mores gentemque profanam.
 scandere quin etiam thalamos hic impius heres
 patris et immeritae gremium incestare parentis
 appetit, proprios—monstrum¹—revolutus in ortus.
 ille tamen superis aeterna piacula solvit 236
 proiecitque diem, nec iam amplius aethere nostro
 vescitur ; at nati—facinus sine more !—cadentes
 calcavere oculos. iam, iam rata vota tulisti,
 dire senex ! meruere tuae, meruere tenebrae 240
 ultorem sperare Iovem. nova sontibus arma
 iniciam regnis, totumque a stirpe revellam
 exitiale genus. belli mihi semina sunt
 Adrastus socer et superis adiuncta sinistris
 conubia. hanc etiam poenis incessere gentem 245
 decretum ; neque enim arcano de pectore fallax
 Tantalus et saevae periit iniuria mensae.”
 Sic pater omnipotens. ast illi saucia dictis
 flammato versans inopinum corde dolorem
 talia Iuno refert : “ mene, o iustissime divum, 250
 me bello certare iubes ? scis, semper ut arces
 Cyclopum magnique Phoroneos inclyta fama
 sceptris viris opibusque iuvem, licet improbus illic
 custodem Phariae somno letoque ruvencae
 exstinguas, saeptis et turribus aureus intres. 255
 mentitis ignosco toris : illam odimus urbem,

¹ monstrum *D Scaliger* : monstro *Pw*.

^a Lit. “Adrastus as a father-in-law,” i.e., “giving his daughter in marriage.”

^b When Tantalus, according to one legend, cut up his son Pelops and boiled him as a feast for the gods. Tantalus was king of Argos, though in some legends king of Lydia or Phrygia. “hanc” therefore means “Argive.”

^c Phoroneus, son of Inachus, was commonly considered

period of day or passing night avail me to recount the impious doings of the race. Nay, this unnatural heir has even ventured to climb his father's couch and defile the womb of his innocent mother, returning (oh ! horror !) to his own life's origin. Yet he has made atonement everlasting to the gods above, casting forth from himself the light of day, nor any more feeds upon the air of heaven ; but his sons (a deed unspeakable) trampled on his eyes as they fell. Now, now are thy prayers fulfilled, terrible old man ! deserving art thou, yea, deserving in thy blindness to hope for Jove as thy avenger. New strife will I send upon the guilty realm, and uproot the whole stock of the deadly race. Let the gift of Adrastus' daughter^a and her ill-omened nuptials furnish me the seeds of war. This race too I am resolved to scourge with punishment : for never hath the deceit of Tantalus, nor the crime of the pitiless banquet^b been forgotten in the secret counsels of my heart."

So spake the Almighty Sire. But wounded by his words and nursing sudden wrath in a heart aflame Juno thus makes answer : "'Tis I, then, justest of gods, I whom thou biddest to engage in war ? for thou knowest how I ever give aid of men and might to the Cyclopean towers and the far-famed sceptre of great Phoroneus, although there thou didst ruthlessly cast on sleep and slay the guardian of the Pharian heifer, ay, and dost enter barred turrets in a shower of gold.^c Concealed amours I pardon thee :

as the founder of Argos, whose walls, like those of other ancient cities, were thought to have been built by the Cyclopes. Argus, the watcher of Io, daughter of Inachus, was slain there, and there Danae, daughter of king Acrisius, was visited by Jupiter.

STATIUS

quam vultu confessus adis, ubi conscia magni
 signa tori tonitrus agis et mea fulmina torques.
 facta luant Thebae : cur hostes eligis Argos ?
 quin auge, si tanta est thalami discordia sancti, 260
 et Samon et veteres armis exscinde Mycenae,
 verte solo Sparten. cur usquam sanguine festo
 coniugis ara tuae, cumulo cur turis Eoi
 laeta calet ? melius votis Mareotica fumant
 Coptos et aerisoni lugentia flumina Nili. 265
 quod si prisca luunt auctorum crimina gentes
 subvenitque tuis sera haec sententia curis,
 percensere aevi senium, quo tempore tandem
 terrarum furias abolere et saecula retro
 emendare sat est ? iamdudum ab sedibus illis 270
 incipe, fluctivaga qua praeterlabitur unda
 Sicanios longe relegens Alpheos amores.
 Arcades hic tua—nec pudor est—delubra nefastis
 imposuere locis, illic Mavortius axis
 Oenomai Geticoque pecus stabulare sub Haemo 275
 dignius, abruptis etiamnum inhumata procorum
 reliquiis trunca ora rigent. tamen hic tibi templi
 gratus honos, placet Ida nocens mentitaque manes
 Creta tuos. me Tantaleis consistere terris,¹

¹ terris *Q*: tectis *P*: regnis *D*: considerare regnis *Hemsius*.

^a Thebes: the reference is to his union with Semele, when he revealed himself in all his majesty with thunder and lightning.

^b i.e., why should I be worshipped as a goddess at all, when I am so dishonoured by you? l. 265 again alludes to Io, with whom Isis, worshipped by the Egyptians, was commonly identified.

^c Where were the man-eating horses of king Diomedes of Thrace. Those of Oenomaus, king of Pisa, used to devour
360

that city^a I hate where thou goest undisguised, where thou soundest the thunders that proclaim our high union, and wieldest the lightnings that are mine. Let Thebes atone her crimes ; why dost thou choose Argos as her foe ? Nay, if such discord hath seized our holy marriage-chamber, go, raze Sparta to the ground, bring war's destruction upon Samos and old Mycenae. Why anywhere^b is the altar of thy spouse made warm by sacrificial blood or fragrant with heaps of eastern incense ? Sweeter is the smoke that rises from the votive shrines of Mareotic Coptos or from the wailing crowds and brazen gongs of river Nile. But if 'tis the evil deeds of former men that mankind now doth expiate, and this resolve hath come so tardily to minister to thy wrath, to cast back thy gaze through days of old, at what far stage of time doth it suffice to drive away earth's madness and purge the backward-reaching ages ? Choose straightway that spot for thy beginning where Alpheus following afar the track of his Sicilian love glides by with sea-wandering wave. Here on accursed ground the Arcadians set thee a shrine—yet it shames thee not—here is Oenomaus' chariot of war and the steeds more fitly stalled beneath Getic Haemus,^c nay even yet the severed heads and mangled corpses of the suitors lie stark and unburied. Yet hast thou here the welcome honours of a temple, yea, and guilty Ida^d pleases thee, and Crete that tells falsely of thy death. Why dost thou

the suitors to the hand of his daughter Hippodamia whom he defeated in a chariot-race.

^a In Crete ; for the charge cf. Callimachus, *Hymn to Zeus*, l. 8, where he accuses the Cretans of speaking of the death of Zeus, whereas Zeus is alive and immortal.

STATIUS

quae tandem invidia est ² belli deflecte tumultus 280
et generis miseresce tui. sunt impia late
regna tibi, melius generos passura nocentes."

Fimerat precibus miscens convicia Iuno.
at non ille gravis dictis, quamquam aspera motu,
reddidit haec: "equidem haud rebar te mente
secunda 285

laturam, quodcumque tuos, licet aequus, in Argos
consulerem, neque me, si detur copia, fallit
multa super Thebis Bacchum ausuramque Dionen
dicere, sed nostri reverentia ponderis obstat.
horrendos etenim latices, Stygia aequora fratris 290
obtestor, mansurum atque inrevocabile verbum,¹
nil fore, quod dictis flectar! quare impiger alis²
portantes praecede notos, Cyllenia proles,
aera per liquidum regnisque inlapsus opacis
dic patruo: superas senior se adtollat ad auras 295
Laius, extinctum nati quem vulnere nondum
ulterior Lethes accepit ripa profundi
lege Erebi; ferat hic diro mea iussa nepoti:
germanum exsilio fretum Argolicisque tumentem
hospitiis, quod sponte cupit, procul impius aula 300
arceat, alternum regni infitiatus honorem.
hinc causae irarum, certo reliqua ordine ducam."

Paret Atlantiades dictis genitoris et inde
summa pedum propere plantaribus inligat alis,
obnubitque comas et temperat astra galero. 305

¹ verbum *Scriverius*: verum *Pw*.

² alis *Gruter*: ales *Pw*.

^a "aspera," because his words were intended to embroil the brothers yet more.

^b Mercury, son of Jupiter, born on Mt. Cyllene in Arcadia. His mother Maia was the daughter of Atlas (303).

grudge me then to abide in my Tantalean land ? Turn hence the tumults of war, and have compassion on thine own blood Many a wide and wicked realm hast thou, that can better suffer the crimes of offending sons."

Juno had finished her mingled entreaty and reproach. But he made reply, not in hard words, though cruel ^a was its purport: "In truth I deemed not that thou wouldest bear with favouring mind all that I might devise, albeit justly, against thy Argos, nor does it escape me that, did occasion grant, Bacchus and Dione would dare to make long pleading on Thebes' behalf, but reverence for my authority forbids. For by those awful waters, my brother's Stygian stream, I swear—an oath abiding and irrevocable,—that naught will make me waver from my word! Wherefore, my Cyllenian,^b in winged speed outstrip the winds that bear thee, and gliding through the limpid air down to the dusky realms tell this message to thy uncle: Let old Laius betake himself to the world above, Laius, whom his son's blow bereft of life and whom by the law of Erebus profound the further bank of Lethe hath not yet received; let him bear my commands to his hateful grandson: His brother, to whom exile has brought confidence and his Argive friendship boastful pride, let him in despite of kin keep far from his halls—as already he doth well desire—and deny him the alternate honour of the crown. So will angry deeds be begotten, and the rest will I lead on in order due."

Obedient to his father's word the grandson of Atlas straightway fastens on his ankles the winged sandals, and with wide hat veils his locks and tempers the brilliance of the stars. Then he took in his right

STATIUS

tum dextrae virgam inseruit, qua pellere dulces
aut suadere iterum somnos, qua nigra subire
Tartara et exsanguis animare adsueverat umbras.
desiluit, tenuique exceptus inhorruit¹ aura.
nec mora, sublimis raptim per inane volatus 310
carpit et ingenti designat nubila gyro.

Interea patris olim vagus exsul ab oris
Oedipodionides furto deserta pererrat
Aoniae. iamiamque animi² male debita regna
concupit, et longum signis cunctantibus annum 315
stare gemit. tenet una dies noctesque recursans
cura virum, si quando humilem decedere regno
germanum et semet Thebis opibusque potitum
cerneret; hac aevum cupiat pro luce³ pacisci.
nunc queritur ceu tarda fugae dispendia, sed mox 320
attollit flatus ducis et sedisse superbus
delecto iam fratre putat: spes anxia mentem
extrahit et longo consumit gaudia voto.
tunc sedet Inachias urbes Danaeiaeque arva
et caligantes abrupto sole Mycenae 325
ferre iter impavidum, seu praevia ducit Erinyes,
seu fors illa viae, sive hac immota vocabat
Atropos. Ogygiis ululata furoribus antra
deserit et pingues Baccheo sanguine colles.
inde plagam, qua molle sedens in plana Cithaeron 330
porrigitur lassumque inclinat ad aequora montem,

¹ inhorruit in D has "perstrept" written above it.

² animi Mueller: animis Pw: animus Q Baehrens.

³ luce Pw: laude Q (luce above).

^a Or "hurtled"; see critical note.

^b Inachus and Danaus were former kings of Argos.
Mycenae was shrouded in darkness as a sign of divine anger
364

hand the wand wherewith he was wont to dispel or call again sweet slumber, wherewith to enter the gates of gloomy Tartarus or summon back dead souls to life. Then down he leapt, and shuddered ^a as the frail air received him; delaying not, he wings his speedy flight through the void on high, and draws a mighty curve upon the clouds.

Meanwhile the son of Oedipus, long time a wandering outlaw from his father's lands, traverses by stealth the waste places of Aonia. Already he broods on the lost realm that was his due, and cries that the long year stands motionless in its tardy constellations. One thought recurring night and day holds him, could he ever but behold his kinsman degraded from the throne, and himself master of Thebes and all its power; a lifetime would he bargain for that day. Now he complains that his exile is but time consumed in idleness, but soon the gust of princely pride swells high, and he fancies his brother already cast down and himself seated proudly in his place; fretful hope keeps his mind busy, and in far-reaching prayers he tastes all his heart's desire. Then he resolves to journey undismayed to the Inachian cities and Danaan lands and to Mycenae dark with the sun's withdrawal,^b whether it were the Fury piloting his steps, or the chance direction of the road, or the summoning of resistless Fate. He leaves the Ogygian glades that resound with frenzied howlings, and the hills that drink deep of Bacchic gore,^c then passes the region where long Cithaeron settles gently to the plain and stoops his weary height to the sea.

when Atreus served up the sons of Thyestes as a meal for their father.

^a Blood shed in worship of Bacchus.

STATIUS

praeterit. hinc arte scopuloso in limite pendens
infames Scirone petras Scyllaeaque rura
purpureo regnata seni mitemque Corinthon
linquit et in mediis audit duo litora campis 335

Iamque per emeriti surgens confinia Phoebi
Titanis late, mundo subvecta silenti,
rorifera gelidum tenuaverat aera biga :
iam pecudes volucresque tacent, iam Somnus avaris
inrepsit curis pronusque ex aethere nutat, 340
grata laboratae referens obliviae vitae.
sed nec puniceo rediturum nubila caelo
promisere iubar, nec rarescentibus umbris
longa repercusso nituere crepuscula Phoebō :
densior a terris et nulli pervia flammae 345
subtexit nox atra polos. iam claustra rigentis
Aeoliae percussa sonant, venturaque rauco
ore minatur hiemps, venti transversa frementes
configunt axemque emoto cardine vellunt,
dum caelum sibi quisque rapit ; sed plurimus Auster
inglomerat noctem, tenebrosa volumina torquens, 351
defunditque imbres, sicco quos asper hiatu
praesolidat Boreas ; nec non abrupta tremiscunt
fulgura, et attritus subita face rumpitur aether.
iam Nemea,¹ iam Taenariis contermina lucis 355
Arcadiae capita alta madent ; ruit agmine magno
Inachus et gelidas surgens Erasinus in undas.²

¹ Nemea ω : Nemeae P.

² gelidas surgens E. in undas gelidas ω : vergens P : in undas P : ad arctos Pω : surgens BD : gelida s. E. in unda Mueller.

^a Scylla was the daughter of Nisus, king of Megara, who had the purple lock.

^b i.e., there was no morning twilight giving promise of 366

Thereafter with dizzy climb along a rocky path he puts behind him Sciron's infamous cliffs and Scylla's country where the purple monarch ruled,^a and kindly Corinth, and in the midmost plain hears two shores resound.

But now through the wide domains which Phoebus, his day's work ended, had left bare, rose the Titanian queen, borne upward through a silent world, and with her dewy chariot cooled and rarefied the air; now birds and beasts are hushed, and Sleep steals o'er the greedy cares of men, and stoops and beckons from the sky, shrouding a toilsome life once more in sweet oblivion. Yet no reddening clouds gave promise of the light's return, nor as the shadows lessened did the twilight gleam with long shafts of sun-reflecting radiance;^b black night, blacker to earthward and shot by never a ray, veiled all the pole. And now the rocky prisons of Aeolia^c are smitten and groan, and the coming storm threatens with hoarse bellowing: the winds loud clamouring meet in conflicting currents, and fling loose heaven's vault from its fastened hinges, while each strives for mastery of the sky; but Auster most violent thickens gloom on gloom with whirling eddies of darkness, and pours down rain which keen Boreas with his freezing breath hardens into hail; quivering lightnings gleam, and from the colliding air bursts sudden fire. Already Nemea and the high peaks of Arcadia that border the forests of Taenarum are drenched; Inachus flows in mighty spate, and Erasinus swelling

the coming day. "longa" might be taken as long-abiding, not far-streaming.

^c The domain of Aeolus, lord of the winds, as in Virg. *Aen.* i. 52.

STATIUS

pulverulenta prius calcataque flumina nullae
 aggeribus tenuere morae, stagnoque refusa est
 funditus et veteri spumavit Lerna veneno. 360
 frangitur omne nemus, rapiunt antiqua procellae
 bracchia silvarum, nullisque aspecta per aevum
 solibus umbrosi patuere aestiva Lycaei.
 ille tamen, modo saxa iugis fugientia ruptis
 miratus, modo nubigenas e montibus amnes 365
 aure¹ pavens passimque insano turbine raptas
 pastorum pecorumque domos, non segnius amens
 incertusque viae per nigra silentia vastum
 haurit iter ; pulsat metus undique et undique frater.
 ac velut hiberno deprensus navita ponto, 370
 cui neque Temo piger neque amico sidere monstrat
 Luna vias, medio caeli pelagique tumultu
 stat rationis inops, iamiamque aut saxa malignis
 exspectat submersa vadis aut vertice acuto
 spumantes scopulos erectae incurrere prorae : 375
 talis opaca legens nemorum Cadmeius heros
 adcelerat, vasto metuenda umbone ferarum
 excutiens stabula, et prono virgulta refringit
 pectore ; dat stimulos animo vis maesta timoris,
 donec ab Inachius victa caligine tectis 380
 emicuit lucem devexa in moenia fundens
 Larisaeus apex. illo spe concitus omni
 evolat, hinc celsae Iunonia templa Prosymnae
 laevus habens, hinc Herculeo signata vapore
 Lernaei stagna atra vadi, tandemque reclusis 385

¹ aure *P*ω : ire *Lachmann*.

^a Nothing else is known of this place.

^b Hercules used fire to burn away the hydra's heads.

high into icy billows. Streams that before were dusty road-tracks now defy all stay of confining bank, Lerna surges up from her deepest depths and foams with her ancient poison. Shattered are all the forests, aged boughs are swept out upon the storm, and the shady summer-haunts of Lycaeus, unbeheld before by any suns, are now stripped bare to view. Yet he, now marvelling at the rocks down-hurled from the cloven mountains, now listening in terror to the cloud-born torrents dashing from the hills, and the raging flood whirling away home of shepherd and stall of beast, slackens not his pace, though distraught and uncertain of his way, but through the dark silences devours the lonely stretches of his road ; on every side fear and the thought of his brother assail his heart. And just as a sailor, caught in a tempest on the deep, to whom neither lazy Wain nor Moon with friendly beam show bearings, stands beggared of resource in mid-tumult of sky and sea, and even now expects the treacherous reef submerged beneath the wave, or waits to see foaming jagged rocks fling themselves at his prow and heave it high in air : so the Cadmean hero threads the darkness of the forests with hastening step, while with huge shield he braves the lairs of fearsome beasts and forward-stooping thrusts through the brushwood thickets ; terror's sombre influence adds spurs to his resolve, till from above the town of Inachus, conquering the gloom with beam of light downpoured upon the shelving walls, shone forth the Larissaeon height. Thither sped by every hope he hies him fast, with Juno's temple of Prosymna ^a high on his left hand, and yonder the black marsh of Lerna's water branded by Herculean fire,^b and at

STATIUS

infertur portis. actutum regia cernit
vestibula ; hic artus imbri ventoque rigentes
proicit ignotaeque adclinis postibus aulae
invitat tenues ad dura cubilia somnos.

Rex ibi tranquille, medio de limite vitae 390
in senium vergens, populos Adrastus habebat,
dives avis et utroque Iovem de sanguine ducens.
hic sexus melioris inops, sed prole virebat
feminea, gemino natarum pignore fultus.
cui Phoebus generos—monstrum exitiabile dictu ! 395
mox adaptata fides—fato¹ ducente canebat
saetigerumque suem et fulvum adventare leonem.
id volvens non ipse pater, non docte futuri
Amphiaræ vides, etenim vetat auctor Apollo.
tantum in corde sedens aegrescit cura parenti. 400

Ecce autem antiquam fato Calydonæ relinquens
Olenius² Tydeus—fraterni sanguinis illum
consciis horror agit—eadem sub nocte sopora
lustra terit, similesque notos dequestus et imbres,
infusam tergo glaciem et liquentia nimbis 405
ora comasque gerens subit uno tegmine, cuius
fusus humo gelida partem prior hospes habebat.
hic vero ambobus rabiem fortuna cruentam
adtulit : haud passi sociis defendere noctem
culminibus, paulum alternis in verba minasque 410
cunctantur ; mox ut iactis sermonibus iræ
intumuere satis, tum vero erectus uterque
exsertare umeros nudamque lacessere pugnam.
celsior ille gradu procera in membra simulque

¹ fato *P* : ævo *ω*.

² Olenius *Pω* : Oenius *D* : Oeneus *Heinsius*.

^a *i.e.*, Aetolian, from a town called Olenos.

length the gates are opened and he enters. Straightway he spies the royal portals ; there he flings down his limbs stiffened with rain and wind, and leaning against the unknown palace doors woos gentle slumber to his hard couch.

There king Adrastus, verging now toward old age from life's mid-course, ruled his folk in tranquil governance, rich in the wealth of ancestry, and on either side tracing his line to Jove. Issue lacked he of the stronger sex, but was prosperous in female offspring : two daughters gave him pledge of love and service. To him had Phoebus at fate's bidding told that sons-in-law drew nigh—a deadly horror to tell ! yet soon was the truth made manifest—in the shapes of bristly swine and tawny lion. Naught comprehends the sire therein for all his ponderings, nor thou, wise Amphiaras, for thy master Apollo forbids. Only the father's heart sickens ever in deep-felt anxiety.

But lo ! Olenian ^a Tydeus leaving ancient Calydon by fate's decree—the guilty terror of a brother's blood drives him forth—treads beneath night's slumbrous veil the same wild ways, bewailing likewise wind and rain, and with ice-sheeted back, and face and hair streaming with the storm, comes to the self-same shelter, whereof the former stranger, stretched on the cold earth, had part. Thereat so chanced it that both were seized with bloody rage, and suffered not a shared roof to ward off the night ; for a while they tarry with exchange of threatening words, then when flung taunts had swelled their anger to the pitch, each uprose, set free his shoulders, and challenged to naked combat. Taller the Theban, with long stride and towering limbs and in life's

integer annorum, sed¹ non et viribus infra 415
 Tydea fert animus, totosque infusa per artus
 maior in exiguo regnabat corpore virtus.
 iam crebros ictus ora et cava tempora circum
 obnixa ingeminant, telorum aut grandinis instar
 Rhiphaeae, flexoque genu vacua ilia tundunt. 420
 non aliter quam Pisaeo sua lustra Tonanti
 cum redeunt crudisque virum sudoribus ardet
 pulvis ; at hinc teneros caveae dissensus ephebos
 concitat, exclusaeque exspectant praemia matres :
 sic alacres odio nullaque cupidine laudis 425
 accensi incurrunt, scrutatur et intima vultus
 unca manus penitusque oculis cedentibus intrat.²
 forsan et accinctos lateri—sic ira ferebat—
 nudassent enses, meliusque hostilibus armis
 lugendus fratri, iuvenis Thebane, iaceres, 430
 ni rex, insolitum clamorem et pectore ab alto
 stridentes gemitus noctis miratus in umbris,
 movisset gressus, magnis cui sobria curis
 pendebat somno iam deteriore senectus.
 isque ubi progrediens numerosa luce per alta 435
 atria dimotis adverso limine claustris
 terribilem dictu faciem, lacera ora putresque
 sanguineo videt imbre genas : “ quae causa furoris,
 externi iuvenes—neque enim meus audeat istas
 civis in usque manus—, quisnam implacabilis ardor 440
 exturbare odiis tranquilla silentia noctis ?
 usque adeone angusta dies et triste, parumper
 pacem animo somnumque pati ? sed prodite tandem,
 unde orti, quo fertis iter, quae iurgia ? nam vos

¹ sed *Pw* : nec *Priscian*. ² intrat *P* : instat *ω*.

^a Statius here has Homer in mind : μικρὸς μὲν ἦεν δέμας, ἀλλὰ μαχητῆς (of Tydeus, *Il.* v. 801).

^b i.e., Olympian Zeus.

prime, yet was Tydeus in strength and spirit no whit the less, and though his frame was smaller greater valour in every part held sway.^a Then closing fiercely they deal many a blow on face and temple, like showers of darts or Rhypæan hail, and with bent knee belabour hollow loins. Even as when the fifth year brings back his festival to the Pisæan Thunderer,^b and all is dust and heat and the crude sweat of men, while yonder the rival favours of the crowd urge on the youthful striplings, and the mothers, excluded from the scene, await the prizes of their sons : so these with but hate to spur them, and inflamed by no lust of praise, fall on, and the sharp nails probe far into their faces and force their way into the yielding eyes. Perchance—so hot their anger—they had bared the swords girt to their sides, and thou hadst lain, O Theban youth, the victim of a foeman's arms—far better so—and earned a brother's meed of tears, had not the king, marvelling at the night's unwonted clamour and the fierce panting groans deep-heaved, bent his steps thither : age and the burden of grave cares held him now in broken fitful slumber. And when proceeding through the high halls with attendant train of torches he beheld, the bars undone, upon the fronting threshold a sight terrible to tell, faces torn and cheeks disfigured with streaming blood : “ Whence this fury, stranger youths ? ” he cried, “ for no citizen of mine would dare such violence as this ; whence this implacable desire to let your hate disturb the tranquil silence of the night ? Has then day so little room, or is it grievous to suffer, even for a while, sleep and peace of mind ? But now come tell me, whence are ye sprung, whither do ye fare, and what may be

haud humiles tanta ira docet, generisque superbi 445
magna per effusum clarescunt signa cruorem."

Vix ea, cum mixto clamore obliqua tuentes
incipiunt una : " rex o mitissime Achivum,
quid verbis opus ? ipse undantis sanguine vultus
aspicis. haec passim turbatis vocis amarae 450
confudere sonis ; inde orsus in ordine Tydeus
continuat : " maesti cupiens solacia casus
monstriferae Calydonis opes Acheloiaque arva
deserui ; vestris haec me ecce in finibus ingens
nox operit. tecto caelum prohibere quis iste 455
arcuit ? an quoniam prior haec ad limina forte
molitus gressus ? pariter stabulare bimbres
Centauros unaque ferunt Cyclopas in Aetna
compositos. sunt et rabidis iura insita monstros
fasque suum : nobis sociare¹ cubilia terrae— 460
sed quid ego ? aut hodie spoliis gavisus abibis,
quisquis es, his, aut me, si non effectus oborto
sanguis hebet luctu, magni de stirpe creatum
Oeneos et Marti non degenerare paterno
accipies." " nec nos animi nec stirpis egentes—" 465
ille refert contra, sed mens sibi conscia fati
cunctatur proferre patrem. tunc mitis Adrastus :
" immo agite, et positae, quas nox inopinaque suasit
aut virtus aut ira, minis succedite tecto.
iam pariter coeant animorum in pignora dextrae. 470
non haec incassum divisque absentibus acta ;
forsan et has venturus amor praemiserit iras,

¹ suum nobis *Pw* : suum ut nobis *Garrod* : nobis sociare
Pw : sociae novisse *Postgate* : binos sociare *Housman* : norunt
sociare *Baehrens*. *Housman brackets as parenthesis* sunt . . .
suum, *Garrod* sunt . . . nobis.

your quarrel? Mean of soul ye cannot be—such anger proves it—even through bloodshed the noble signs of a proud race show clear.”

Scarce had he spoken, when with mingled clamour and sidelong glance together they begin: “Achaean prince! most gracious monarch! what need of words? thou seest thyself this face all bloody”—their words are lost in the confused sound of bitter accents. Then Tydeus taking first place of speech thus recounts his tale: “Desiring solace for my unhappy lot I left the wealth of Calydon, nurse of monsters, and the Acheloian fields: and lo! in your boundaries deepest night o’ertakes me. Who was he to forbid me shelter from the sky? or was it because he won his way first to this threshold? But twy-form Centaurs stall with each other, so ’tis said, and Cyclopes have peace together beneath Aetna; nay even to wild monsters nature has given laws and their own rule of right; and for us to share a lodging on the ground—? but why waste words? either thou, whoe’er thou art, shalt to-day depart rejoicing in my spoils, or, if rising pain dulls not my blood, thou shalt know me to be of mighty Oeneus’ stock and no degenerate scion of my forefather Mars!” “Nor lack I spirit or race” returns the other, but conscious in his heart of ruthless fate he hesitates to name his sire. Then kindly Adrastus: “Nay come now, cease the threatening words which night or sudden wrath or valour prompted, and pass beneath my palace-roof. Now let your right hands be joined to pledge your hearts. These doings have not been vain nor without the sanction of the powers above: perchance even these angry quarrels do but foreshadow a friendship to come, so that ye may have

STATIUS

ut meminisse iuvat." nec vana voce locutus
fata senex, siquidem hanc perhibent per¹ vulnera
iunctis

isse² fidem, quanta partitum extrema protervo 475
Thesea Pirithoo, vel inanem mentis Oresten
opposito rabidam Pylade vitasse Megaeram.
tunc quoque mulcentem dictis corda aspera regem
iam faciles, ventis ut decertata residunt
aequora, laxatisque diu tamen aura superstes 480
immoritur velis, passi subiere penates.

Hic primum lustrare oculis cultusque virorum
telaque magna vacat : tergo videt huius inanem
impexis utrimque iubis horrere leonem,
illius in speciem, quem per Teumesia tempe 485
Amphitryoniades fractum iuvenalibus annis³
ante Cleonaei vestitus proelia monstri.
terribiles contra saetis ac dente recurvo
Tydea per latos umeros ambire laborant
exuviae, Calydonis honos. stupet omine tanto 490
defixus senior, divina oracula Phoebi
agnoscens monitusque datos vocalibus antris.
obtutu gelida ora premit, laetusque per artus
horror iit ; sensit manifesto numine ductos
adfore, quos nexis ambagibus augur Apollo 495
portendi generos, vultu fallente ferarum,
ediderat. tunc sic tendens ad sidera palmas :
"nox, quae terrarum caelique amplexa labores
igneae multivago transmittis sidera lapsu,

¹ per *P* : post ω .

² isse *Gruter* : esse *Pw*.

³ annis *PB* : armis ω : annis *D* (*with armis above*).

^a Because he tried to carry off Proserpine.

^b One of the Furies who pursued Orestes when he had slain his mother.

^c Teumesus is a mountain near Thebes.

pleasure in remembrance." Nor were the old man's words an empty presage, for they say that from their comradeship in wounds grew such loyalty as Theseus showed when he shared extremest peril with wanton^a Pirithous, or Pylades when he rescued distraught Orestes from the fury of Megaera.^b So then, yielding their savage hearts to the king's soothing words—even as waters that winds have made their battleground sink to rest, and yet on the drooping sails one surviving breath is long in dying—even so submissive they entered the palace.

Here first he has leisure to let his glance pass o'er the heroes' dress and mighty weapons. On Polynices' back he spies a lion flayed, all rough with uncombed mane, like to that one which in the Teumesian^c glades Amphytryon's son laid low in his boyish years and clothed himself withal, before the battle with the monster of Cleonae.^d Tydeus' broad shoulders the proud spoils of Calydon, grim with bristles and curved fang, strive to enfold. Aghast and motionless stands the old king at so dire an omen, calling to mind the divine oracles of Phoebus and the warning uttered from the inspired cell. His countenance is fixed in frozen silence, while through his limbs ran a thrill of joy; he felt that they had come, led by heaven's clear prompting, whom prophetic Apollo in riddling obscurities had fore-shown to be his destined sons-in-law, under the feigned guise of beasts. Then stretching forth his hands to the stars, "O Night," he cries, "who castest thy mantle over toiling earth and heaven, and sendest the fiery stars on their divers roaming courses,

^a The Nemean lion; Cleonae, a village near Nemea.

indulgens reparare animum, dum proximus aegris 500
 infundat Titan agiles animantibus ortus,
 tu mihi perplexis quaesitam erroribus ultro
 advehis alma fidem veterisque exordia fati
 detegis : adsistas operi tuaque omina firmes.
 semper honoratam dimensis orbibus anni 505
 te domus ista colet ; mgni tibi, diva, litabunt
 electa cervice greges, lustralhaque exta
 lacte novo perfusus edet Vulcanius ignis.
 salve prisca fides tripodum obscurique recessus !
 deprendi, Fortuna, deos ! ” sic fatus, et ambos 510
 innectens manibus tecta interioris¹ ad aulae
 progreditur. canis etiamnum altaribus ignes
 sopitum cinerem et tepidi libamina sacri
 servabant ; adolere focos epulasque recentes
 instaurare iubet. dictis parere ministri 515
 certatim adcelerant ; vario strepit icta tumultu
 regia : pars ostro tenues auroque sonantes
 emunire toros alteque inferre tapetas,
 pars teretes levare manu ac disponere mensas.
 ast alii tenebras et opacam vincere noctem 520
 adgressi tendunt auratis vincula lychnis.
 his labor inserto torrere exsanguia ferro
 viscera caesarum pecudum, his cumulare canistris
 perdomitam saxo Cererem ; laetatur Adrastus
 obsequio fervere domum.
 Iamque ipse superbis 525
 fulgebat stratis solioque effultus eburno.
 parte alia iuvenes siccati vulnera lymphis
 discumbunt, simul ora notis foedata tuentur

¹ interioris *Schrader* : ulterioris *P_ω*.

gracious refresher of the mind, till the next sun shed blithe upspringing upon faint mortality, thou, kindly Night, dost bring me of thy bounty assurance long sought in perplexity and doubt, and dost reveal the ancient purposes of fate: aid now my work, and certify the omens thou hast given. Ever shall this house throughout the circling periods of the year hold thee high in honour and in worship; black bulls of chosen beauty shall pay thee sacrifice, O goddess! and Vulcan's fire shall eat the lustral entrails, where-o'er the new milk streams. Hail, ancient truth of mystic Tripod! hail, secret grotto! I have found, O Fortune, that the gods are gods indeed!" So saying, and joining arms with both he goes forward to the inner chamber of his dwelling. Even yet the fires slumbered in the grey ashes on the altars, and the poured offerings of the sacrifice were yet warm; he bids the flames again be roused and the late banquet be renewed. His henchmen obey his words in emulous haste: manifold tumult echoes throughout the palace. Some array the couches with delicate purple and rustling embroidery of gold and pile the cushions high, some polish smooth and place in order the tables: others again set about to banish the darkness of gloomy night by stretching chains for gilded lanterns; these have the task of roasting on a spit's point the bloodless flesh of slain beasts, those of crushing grain on a stone and heaping the bread in baskets; Adrastus rejoices to see his house aglow with obedient service.

And now he himself, raised high on the proud cushions of an ivory throne, shone resplendent; elsewhere the youths recline, their wounds healed with cleansing water, and beholding each other's

STATIUS

inque vicem ignoscunt. tunc rex longaevus Acasten—
natarum haec altrix eadem et fidissima custos 530
lecta sacrum iustae Veneri occultare pudorem—
imperat acciri tacitaque immurmurat aure.¹

Nec mora praeceptis, cum protinus utraque virgo
arcano egressae thalamo : mirabile visu,
Pallados armisonae pharetrataeque ora Dianae 535
aequa ferunt, terrore minus. nova deinde pudori
visa virum facies : pariter pallorque ruborque
purpureas hausere genas, oculique verentes
ad sanctum rediere patrem. postquam ordine mensae
victa fames, signis perfectam auroque nitentem 540
Iasides pateram famulos ex more poposcit,
qua Danaus libare deis seniorque Phoroneus
adsueti. tenet haec operum caelata figuras :
aureus² anguicomam praesepto Gorgona collo
ales habet, iamiamque vagas—ita visus³—in auras 545
exsilit ; illa graves oculos languentiaque ora
paene movet vivoque etiam pallescit in auro.
hinc Phrygius fulvis venator tollitur alis,
Gargara desidunt surgenti et Troia recedit,
stant maesti comites, frustra sonantia lassant 550
ora canes umbramque petunt et nubila latrant.
hanc undante mero fundens vocat ordine cunctos
caelicolas, Phoebum ante alios, Phoebum omnis ad
aram

¹ tacitaque . . . aure *Pw* : tacitaeque . . . auri *Klotz* : tacite-
que . . . auri *Deipser* : tacitoque . . . ore *Koestlin*.

² aureus *Pw* : Perseus *Bentley*.

³ ita visus *Pw* : gavisus *D*.

^a "hausere" is used by a startling *zeugma* both with "pallor" (its natural use), and with "rubor" (for "suffuses").

^b He was a former king of Argos.

scarred visages bear mutual forgiveness. Then the aged king bids Acaste be summoned—his daughters' nurse and trusty guardian, chosen to keep ward on maiden modesty consecrated to lawful wedlock—and murmurs in her silent ear.

She stayed not upon his bidding, but straightway both maidens came forth from their secret bower, in countenance, marvellous to tell, like to quiver-bearing Diana and warrior Pallas, yet without their terror. They spy the new faces of the heroes and are shamed; pallor at once and blushes made havoc of their bright cheeks, and their timorous eyes resought their reverend sire.^a When in the banquet's course hunger was quelled, the son of Iasus,^b as his custom was, bade his thralls bring a goblet fair-wrought with figures and shining with gold, wherefrom both Danaus and elder Phoroneus were wont to pour libation to the gods. Thereon was embossed work of images: all golden, a winged youth holds the snake-tressed Gorgon's severed head, and even upon the moment—so it seems—leaps up into the wandering breeze; she almost moves her heavy eyes and drooping head, and even grows pale in the living gold.^c Here the Phrygian hunter^d is borne aloft on tawny wings, Gargara's range sinks downwards as he rises and Troy grows dim beneath him; sadly stand his comrades, in vain the hounds weary their throats with barking and pursue his shadow or bay at the clouds. From thence he pours the streaming wine and in order due calls on all the denizens of heaven, Phoebus before the rest; Phoebus' presence all

^a Gold is *naturally* pale, and so suggests the face growing pale in death: "vivo" means the *natural*, *native* metal, cf. "vivoque sedilia saxo."

^d Ganymede.

STATIUS

laude ciet comitum famulumque evincta pudica
fronde manus, cui festa dies largoque refecti 555
ture vaporatis lucent altaribus ignes.

“ Forsitan, o iuvenes, quae sint ea sacra quibusque
praecipuum causis Phoebi obtestemur honorem ”
rex ait, “ exquirant animi. non inscia suasit
relligio, magnis exercita cladibus olim 560
plebs Argiva litant ; animos advertite, pandam.
postquam caerulei sinuosa volumina monstri,
terrigenam Pythona deus septem orbibus atris
amplexum Delphos squamisque annosa terentem
robora, Castaliis dum fontibus ore trisulco 565
fusus hiat nigro sitiens alimenta veneno,
perculit, absumptis numerosa in vulnera telis,
Cirrhaeique dedit centum per iugera campi
vix tandem explicitum, nova deinde piacula caedis
perquirens nostri tecta haud opulenta Crotopi 570
attigit. huic primis et pubem ineuntibus annis
mira decore pios¹ servabat nata penates
intemerata toris. felix, si Delia numquam
furta nec occultum Phoebo sociasset amorem !
namque ut passa deum Nemeaei ad fluminis undam,
bis quinos plena cum fronte resumeret orbes 576
Cynthia, sidereum Latonae feta nepotem
edidit ; ac poenae metuens—neque enim ille coactis
donasset thalamis veniam pater—avia rura
eligit ac natum saepta inter ovilia furtim 580
montivago pecoris custodi mandat alendum.
non tibi digna, puer, generis cunabula tanti

¹ pios *Bentley* : pio *Pw.*

^a From Cirrha, the port of Delphi ; so l. 641.

invoke with praise, garlanded with reverent myrtle, friend and thrall alike, about his altar; for in his honour they make holiday, and the altars, refreshed by lavish incense, glow through wreaths of smoke.

“Perchance ye may inquire, O youths,” thus says the monarch, “what means this sacrifice, and for what reason we pay Phoebus signal honour. Urged by no ignorant fear, but under stress of dire calamity, the Argive folk aforetime made this offering. Lend me your hearing, and I will recount the tale. When that the god had smitten the dark and sinuous-coiling monster, the earth-born Pytho, who cast about Delphi his sevenfold grisly circles and with his scales ground the ancient oaks to powder, even while sprawling by Castalia’s fountain he gaped with three-tongued mouth athirst to feed his deadly venom. When having spent his shafts on numberless wounds he left him, scarce fully stretched in death over a hundred acres of Cirrhaean^a soil, then, seeking fresh expiation of the dead, he came to the humble dwelling of our king Crotopus. A daughter, in the first years of tender maidenhood, and wondrous fair, kept this pious home, a virgin chaste. How happy, had she ne’er kept secret tryst with the Delian, or shared a stolen love with Phoebus! For she suffered the violence of the god by Nemea’s stream, and when Cynthia had twice five times gathered her circle’s visage to the full, she brought forth a child, Latona’s grandson, bright as a star. Then fearing punishment—for her sire would ne’er have pardoned a forced wedlock—she chose the pathless wilds, and stealthily among the sheep-pens gave her child to a mountain-wandering guardian of the flock for nurture. No cradle worthy of a birth so noble, hapless

STATIUS

gramineos dedit herba toros et vimine querno
 texta domus ; clausa arbutei sub cortice libri
 membra tepent, suadetque leves cava fistula somnos,
 et pecori commune solum. sed fata nec illum 586
 concessere larem ; viridi nam caespite terrae
 proiectum temere et patulo caelum ore trahentem
 dira canum rabies, morsu depasta cruento,
 dissicit. hic vero attonitas ut nuntius aures 590
 matris adit, pulsi ex animo genitorque pudorque
 et metus : ipsa ultro saevis plangoribus amens
 tecta replet, vacuumque ferens velamine pectus
 occurrit confessa patri ; nec motus et atro
 imperat—infandum !—cupientem occumbere leto. 595
 sero memor thalami maestae solacia morti,
 Phoebe, paras monstrum infandis Acheronte sub imo
 conceptum Eumenidum thalamis, cui virginis ora
 pectoraque ; aeternum stridens a vertice surgit
 et ferrugineam frontem discriminat anguis. 600
 haec tum dira lues nocturno squalida passu
 inlabi thalamis, animasque a stirpe recentes
 abripere altricum gremius morsuque cruento
 devesci et multum patrio pinguescere luctu.
 haud tulit armorum praestans animique¹ Coroebus 605
 seque ultro lectis iuvenum, qui robore primi
 famam posthabita faciles extendere vita,
 obtulit. illa novos ibat populata penates
 portarum in bivio—lateri duo corpora parvum
 dependent, et iam unca manus vitalibus haeret 610
 ferratique ungues tenero sub corde tepescunt— :
 obvius huic, latus omne virum stipante corona,

¹ animique *P*ω : animisque *D*.

infant, did thy grassy bed afford thee, or thy woven home of oaken twigs ; enclosed in the fibre of arbutus-bark thy limbs are warm, and a hollow pipe coaxes thee to gentle slumbers, while the flock shares thy sleeping-ground. But not even such a home did the fates permit, for, as he lay careless and drinking in the day with open mouth, fierce ravening dogs mangled the babe and took their fill with bloody jaws. But when the tidings reached the mother's horror-struck ears, father and shame and fear were all forgot ; herself straightway she fills the house with wild lamentation, all distraught, and baring her breast meets her father with her tale of grief. Nor is he moved, but bids her—Oh horrible !—even as she desires, suffer grim death. Too late remembering thy union, O Phoebus, thou dost devise a solace for her miserable fate, a monster conceived 'neath lowest Acheron in the Furies' unhallowed lair : a maiden's face and bosom has she, from her head an ever-hissing snake rises erect, parting in twain her livid brow. Then that foul pest, gliding at night with unseen movement into the chambers, tore from the breasts that suckled them lives newly-born, and with blood-stained fangs gorged and fattened on the country's grief. But Coroebus, foremost in prowess of arms and high courage, brooked it not, and with chosen youths, unsurpassed in valour and ready at life's hazard to enlarge their fame, went forth, a willing champion. From dwellings newly ravaged she was going, where in the gateway two roads meet, the corpses of two little ones hung at her side, and still her hooked talons claw their vitals and the iron nails are warm in their young hearts. Thronged by his band of heroes the youth rushed to the attack,

fit¹ iuvenis, ferrumque ingens sub pectore duro
 condidit, atque imas animae mucrone corusco
 scrutatus latebras tandem sua monstra profundo 615
 reddit habere Iovi. iuvat ire et visere iuxta
 lventes in morte oculos uterique nefandam
 proluviem et crasso squalentia pectora tabo,
 qua nostrae cecidere animae. stupet Inacha pubes,
 magnaue post lacrimas etiamnum gaudia pallent. 620
 hi trabibus duris, solacia vana dolori,
 proterere exanimos artus asprosque molares
 deculcare genus : nequit iram explere potestas.
 illam et nocturno circum stridore volantes
 impastae fugistis aves, rabidamque canum vim 625
 oraque sicca ferunt trepidorum inhiasse luporum.
 saevior in miseros fatis ultricis ademptae
 Delus insurgit, summaque biverticis umbra
 Parnassi residens arcu crudelis iniquo
 pestifera arma iacit, camposque et celsa Cyclopum 630
 tecta superiecto nebularum incendit amictu.
 labuntur dulces animae, Mors fila Sororum
 ense metit captamque tenens fert manibus urbem.
 quaerenti, quae causa, duci, quis ab aethere laevus
 ignis et in totum regnaret Sirius annum, 635
 idem auctor Paeon rursus iubet ire cruento
 inferias monstro iuvenes, qui caede potiti.
 fortunate animi longumque in saecula digne
 promeriture diem ! non tu pia degener arma
 oculis aut certae trepidas occurrere morti. 640

¹ fit *P* : it ω .

and buried his broad blade in her cruel breast, and with flashing steel probing deep the spirit's lurking-place at length restored to nether Jove his monstrous offspring. What joy to go and see at close hand those eyes livid in death, the ghastly issue of her womb, and her breasts clotted with foul corruption, whereby our young lives perished ! Appalled stand the Inachian youth, and their gladness, though great now sorrow is ended, even yet is dim and pale. With sharp stakes they mangle the dead limbs—vain solace for their grief—and beat out the jagged grinding teeth from her jaws : they can—yet cannot glut their ire. Her did ye flee unfed, ye birds, wheeling round with nocturnal clamour, and ravening dogs, they say, and wolves gaped in terror upon her, dry-mouthed But against the unhappy youths the Delian rises up fierce at the doom of his slain avengeress, and seated on the shady top of twin-peaked Parnassus with relentless bow he cruelly scatters shafts that bring pestilence, and withers beneath a misty shroud the fields and dwellings of the Cyclopes.^a Pleasant lives droop and fail, Death with his sword cuts through the Sisters' threads, and hurries the stricken city to the shades. Our leader then inquiring what the cause may be, what is this baleful fire from heaven, why Sirius reigns throughout the whole year, the word of the same god Paean brings command, to sacrifice to the blood-stained monster those youths that caused her death. O valour heaven-blest ! O worth that will merit a long age of fame ! No base craven thou to hide thy devoted deed, or shun in fear a certain death !

^a *i.e.*, Argos, which the Cyclopes were supposed originally to have built.

STATIUS

comminus ora ferens Cirrhaei in limine templi
 constitit et sacras ita vocibus asperat iras :
 ‘ non missus, Thymbraee, tuos supplexve penates
 advenio : mea me pietas et conscia virtus
 has egere vias. ego sum, qui caede subegi, 645
 Phoebe, tuum mortale nefas, quem nubibus atris
 et squalente die, nigra quem tabe sinistri
 quaeris, inique, pol. quodsi monstra efferata magnis
 cara adeo superis, iacturaque vilior orbi 649
 mors hominum et saevo tanta inclementia caelo est,
 quid meruere Argi ? me, me, divum optime, solum
 obiecis caput fatis praestabat. an illud
 lene¹ magis cordi, quod desolata domorum
 tecta vides, ignique datis cultoribus omnis
 lucet² ager ? sed quid fando tua tela manusque 655
 demoror ? exspectant matres, supremaque fiunt
 vota mihi. satis est : merui, ne parcere velles.
 proinde move pharetras arcusque intende sonoros
 insignemque animam leto demitte ; sed illum,
 pallidus Inachiis qui desuper imminet Argis, 660
 dum morior, dispelle globum.’

Sors aequa merentes

respicit. ardentem tenuit reverentia caedis
 Letoiden, tristemque viro submissus honorem
 largitur vitae ; nostro mala nubila caelo
 diffugiunt, at tu stupefacti a limine Phoebi 665
 exoratus abis. inde haec stata sacra quotannis
 sollemnes recolunt epulae, Phoebeaque placat

¹ lene *Pw* : laeve *Gronovius* : saeve *Bentley* : an illud lene ?
Garrod.

² lucet *Pw* : luget *Heinsius*.

Unabashed he stood on the threshold of Cirrha's temple, and with these words gives fierce utterance to his sacred rage : ' Not sent by any, nor suppliant, O Thymbraean,^a do I approach thy shrine : duty and consciousness of right have turned my steps this way. I am he, O Phoebus, who laid low thy deadly scourge, I am he whom thou, ruthless one, dost seek out by poison-cloud, and the light of day defiled, and the black corruption of a baleful heaven. But even if raging monsters be so dear to the gods above, and the destruction of men a cheaper loss to the world, and heaven be so stern and pitiless, in what have the Argives sinned ? My life, my life alone, most righteous of the gods, should be offered to the fates ! Or is it more soothing to thy heart that thou seest homesteads desolate, and the countryside lit up by the burning roofs of husbandmen ? But why by speaking do I delay the weapons of thy might ? our mothers are waiting, and the last prayers for me are being uttered. Enough : I have deserved that thou should'st be merciless. Bring then thy quiver, and stretch thy sounding bow, and send a noble soul to death ! but, even while I die, dispel the gathered mist that from on high hangs pallid over Inachian Argos.'

Equity hath regard for the deserving. Awe of slaughter took hold on Leto's fiery son, and yielding he grants the hero the sad boon of life ; the deadly clouds fly scattering from our heaven, while thou, thy prayer heard, departest from marvelling Phoebus' door. Thenceforward do we in solemn banquet yearly renew the appointed sacrifice, and placate the

^a A title of Apollo, from his shrine at Thymbra in the Troad, *cf.* 699.

STATIUS

templa novatus honos. has forte invisitis aras
vos quae progenies ? quamquam Calydonius Oeneus
et Parthaoniae, si dudum certus ad aures 670
clamor iit, tibi iura domus. tu pande, quis Argos
advenias, quando hae variis sermonibus horae."

Deiecit maestos extemplo Ismenius heros
in terram vultus, taciteque ad Tydea laesum
obliquare oculos ; tum longa silentia movit : 675
" non super hos divum tibi sum quaerendus honores,
unde genus, quae terra mihi, quis defluat ordo
sanguinis antiqui : piget inter sacra fateri.
sed si praecipitant miserum cognoscere curae,
Cadmus origo patrum, tellus Mavortia Thebe, 680
est genetrix Iocasta mihi." tum motus Adrastus
hospitiis—agnovit enim :—" quid nota recondis ?
scimus " ait, " nec sic aversum fama Mycenis
volvitur iter. regnum et furias oculosque pudentes
novit et Arctois si quis de solibus horret 685
quique bibit Gangem aut nigrum occasibus intrat
Oceanum, et si quos incerto litore Syrtes
destituunt. ne perge queri casusque priorum
adnumerare tibi : nostro quoque sanguine multum
erravit pietas, nec culpa nepotibus obstat. 690
tu modo dissimilis rebus mereare secundis
excusare tuos. et iam temone supino
languet Hyperboreae glacialis portitor Ursae.
fundite vina focis, servatoremque parentum
Letoiden votis iterumque iterumque canamus. 695

^a Parthaon was a king of Calydon, father of Oeneus.

^b Theban, from the river Ismenus.

^c Statius has quantly combined the two names of the constellation, the Bear and the Wain ; by the Hyperborean Bear he simply means the North, so that the phrase corresponds to Spenser's " the Northern Waggoner."

shrine of Phoebus in recurring festival. Of what stock come ye, whom chance has led to these our altars? though, if but now my ears did rightly catch your outcry, Oeneus of Calydon is thy sire, and thine the lordship of Parthaonia's house.^a But thou, do thou reveal who thou art that comest thus to Argos, since now the hour permits of varied discourse."

Straightway did the Ismenian ^b hero bend his sad looks to earth, and cast at injured Tydeus a silent sidelong glance; then after a long pause he spoke: "Not at these honours paid to heaven is it meet to ask me of my birth or land or ancient descent of blood; hard is it to confess the truth amid the holy rites. But if your wish is urgent to know my unhappy tale, Cadmus was the ancestor of my sires, my land Mavortian Thebes, my mother is Jocasta." Then Adrastus, moved to friendly compassion—for he recognized him—said. "Why hide what all have heard? this know we, nor doth Fame journey so distant from Mycenae. Yea, of that reign, and the madness, and the eyes that knew shame of their seeing, even he hath heard who shivers 'neath an Arctic sun, and he who drinks of Ganges, or sails into the Ocean darkening to the west, and they whom the shifting shoreline of the Syrtes fails. Cease to lament, or to recount the woes of thy fathers: in our house also hath there been many a fall from duty, but past error binds not posterity. Only do thou, unlike to them, win by fortune's favour this reward, to redeem thy kindred. And now the frosty wagoner of the Hyperborean Bear ^c droops languidly, with backward slanting pole. Pour your wine upon the altar-hearths, and chant we our prayer, again and yet again, to Leto's son, the saviour of our fathers!

STATIUS

Phoebe parens, seu te Lyciae Patarea nivosis
 exercent dumeta iugis, seu rore pudico
 Castaliae flavos amor est tibi mergere crines,
 seu Troiam Thymbraeus habes, ubi fama volentem
 ingratis Phrygios umeris subiisse molares, 700
 seu iuvat Aegaeum feriens Latonius umbra
 Cynthus et adsiduam pelago non quaerere Delon :
 tela tibi longaeque feros lentandus in hostes
 arcus, et aetherii dono cessere parentes
 aeternum florere genas, tu doctus iniquas 705
 Parcarum praenosse manus fatumque quod ultrast
 et summo placitura Iovi, quis letifer annus,
 bella quibus populis, quae mutant sceptrata cometae,
 tu Phryga submittis citharae, tu matris honori
 terrigenam Tityon Stygis extendis harenis ; 710
 te viridis Python Thebanaeque mater ovantem
 horruit in pharetris, ultrix tibi torva Megaera
 ieiunum Phlegyan subter cava saxa iacentem
 aeterno premit accubitu dapibusque profanis
 instimulat, sed mixta famem fastidia vincunt : 715
 adsis, o memor hospitii, Iunoniaeque arva
 dexter ames, seu te roseum Titana vocari
 gentis Achaemeniae ritu, seu praestat Osirin
 frugiferum, seu Persei sub rupibus antri
 indignata sequi torquentem cornua Mithram." 720

^a *i.e.*, hunting.

^b *i.e.*, in building Troy.

^c The mountain in Delos.

^d Marsyas.

^e Niobe, daughter of Cadmus.

^f A Lapith who had set fire to Apollo's temple.

^g *i.e.*, Argos.

^h The reference is to the sun-worship of the Persians; Mithras is frequently represented dragging a bull to be sacrificed. "Persean," from Perses, son of Perseus and Andromeda, founder of the Persian nation, *cf.* Hdt. vii. 61.

Phoebus, Sire ! whether the copses of Patara and Lycia's snowy uplands keep thee busy,^a or thou delightest to bathe thy golden hair in Castalia's pure dew, or whether as Thymbra's lord thou dwellest in Troy, where they say thou didst willingly bear on thankless shoulders blocks of Phrygian stone,^b or whether Latonian Cynthus^c pleases thee, casting his shadow on the Aegean wave, and Delos, settled sure in the deep, nor needing now thy search,—thine are the arrows and the bending of the bows against the savage enemy afar ; to thee did celestial parents grant thy cheeks' eternal bloom ; thou art skilled to foreknow Fate's cruel handiwork, and the destiny that lies beyond, and high Jove's pleasure, to what peoples pestilence cometh or wars, what change of sceptres comets bring ; thou makest the Phrygian^d subject to thy lyre, and for thy mother's honour dost stretch the earth-born Tityos on the Stygian sands ; thee the green Python and the Theban mother^e horror-struck beheld triumphant with thy quiver, to avenge thee grim Megaera holds fast the starving Phlegyas,^f who lies ever pressed beneath the cavernous rocks, and tortures him with the unholy feast, but mingled loathing defeats his hunger : be thou present to our succour, mindful of our hospitality, and shed on the fields of Juno^g the blessings of thy love, whether 'tis right to call thee rosy Titan, in the fashion of the Achaemenian race,^h or Osiris bringer of the harvest, or Mithras, that beneath the rocky Persean cave strains at the reluctant-following horns."

LIBER II

Interea gelidis Maia satus aliger umbris
 iussa gerens magni remeat Iovis ; undique pigrae
 ire vetant nubes et turbidus implicat aer,
 nec zephyri rapuere gradum, sed foeda silentis
 aura poli. Styx inde novem circumflua campis,¹ 5
 hinc obiecta vias torrentum incendia cludunt.
 pone senex trepida succedit Laius umbra
 vulnere tardus adhuc ; capulo nam largius illi
 transabiit animam² cognatis ictibus ensis
 impius, et primas Furiarum pertulit iras ; 10
 it tamen et medica firmat vestigia virga.
 tum steriles luci possessaque manibus arva
 et ferrugineum nemus adstupet, ipsaque Tellus
 miratur patuisse retro, nec livida tabes
 invidiae functis quamquam et iam lumine cassis 15
 defuit. unus ibi ante alios, cui laeva voluntas
 semper et ad superos—hinc et gravis exitus aevi—
 insultare malis rebusque aegrescere laetis,
 “ vade ” ait, “ o felix, quoscumque vocaris in usus,
 seu Iovis imperio, seu maior adegit Erinys 20
 ire diem contra, seu te furiata sacerdos
 Thessalis arcano iubet emigrare sepulcro,
 heu dulces visure polos solemque relictum

¹ campis *P*ω : ripis *Bentley*.

² animam *P* : costas *ω*.

BOOK II

Meanwhile the winged son of Maia returns from the cold shades, fulfilling the errand of great Jove ; on every side sluggish clouds hinder his way and misty air enfolds him, no Zephyrs wafted his course, but the foul vapours of the silent world. On this side Styx encircling its nine regions, on that a barrier of fiery torrents encloses his path. Behind him follows old Laius' trembling shade, still halting from his wound ; for deeper than the hilt had his kinsman's impious swordthrust pierced into his life and sped the first blow of Avenging Wrath ; yet on he goes, strengthening his steps with the healing wand. Then barren woods and spirit-haunted fields and groves of lurid hue stand in amaze, and Earth herself marvels that the backward road lies open, nor even to the dead and those already bereft of light was lacking the livid blight of envy. One there, perversely eager beyond the rest ever to revile the gods—thus indeed had he come by a grievous doom—and to repine at happiness, cries : “ Good speed, thou lucky one, on what behest soever summoned, whether by Jove's command, or whether an overmastering Fury drive thee to meet the day, or frenzied witch of Thessaly bid thee come forth from thy secret sepulchre : alas ! thou that wilt see the pleasant sky and the sunlight thou didst leave behind

STATIUS

et virides terras et puros fontibus amnes,
 tristior has iterum tamen intrature tenebras." 25
 illos ut caeco recubans in limine sensit
 Cerberus atque omnes¹ capitum subrexat hiatus
 saevus et intranti populo; iam nigra tumebat
 colla minax, iam sparsa solo turbaverat ossa,
 ni deus horrentem Lethaeo vimine mulcens 30
 ferrea tergemino domuisset lumina somno.

Est locus—Inachiae dixerunt Taenara gentes—,
 qua formidatum Maleae spumantis in auras
 it caput et nullos admittit culmine visus
 stat sublimis apex ventosque imbresque serenus 35
 despicit et tantum fessis insiditur astris.
 illic exhausti posuere cubilia venti,
 fulminibusque iter est²; medium cava nubila montis
 insumpsere latus, summos nec praepetis alae
 plausus adit colles, nec rauca tonitrua pulsant.³ 40
 ast ubi prona dies, longos super aequora fines
 exigit atque ingens medio natat umbra profundo.
 interiore sinu frangentia litora curvat
 Taenaros, expositos non audax scandere⁴ fluctus.
 illic Aegaeo Neptunus gurgite fessos 45
 in portum deducit equos, prior haurit harenas
 ungula, postremi solvuntur in aequora pisces.
 hoc, ut fama, loco pallentes devius umbras
 trames agit nigrique Iovis vacua atria ditat
 mortibus. Arcadii perhibent si vera coloni, 50

¹ atque omnes *Pw*: aequae *Unger*, alte *Lachmann*: anguicomus *Koch*. ² iter est *Pw*: quies *conj.* *Postgate*.

³ ll. 37-40 omitted by *Pw*, though inserted in the margin by another hand in *PBQ*. Elsewhere in *Statius* tonitrus is masculine.

⁴ frangentia . . . scandere *Pw*: scandentia . . . frangere *Koestlin* (cf. *Prop.* iv. 1. 125): scindere *Kohlmann* (but cf. *Ach.* i. 449)

and the green earth and the pure river-springs, yet more sadly wilt return again to this darkness."

Cerberus lying on the murky threshold perceived them, and reared up with all his mouths wide agape, fierce even to entering folk; but now his black neck swelled up all threatening, now had he torn and scattered their bones upon the ground, had not the god with branch Lethæan soothed his bristling frame and quelled with threefold slumber the steely glare.

There is a place—named Taenarum by the Inachian folk—where foaming Malea's dreaded headland rises into the air, nor suffers any vision to reach its summit. Sublime stands the peak and looks down serene on winds and rain, and only to weary stars affords a resting-place. There tired winds find repose, and there the lightnings have their path; hollow clouds hold the mountain's midmost flanks, and never beat of soaring wing comes nigh the topmost ranges nor the hoarse clap of thunder. But when the day inclines towards its setting, a vast shadow casts its fringes wide over the level waters, and floats upon mid-sea. Around an inner bay Taenaros curves his broken shore-line, not bold to breast the outer waves. There Neptune brings home to haven his coursers wearied by the Aegean flood; in front their hooves paw the sand, behind, they end in fishy tails beneath the water. In this region, so 'tis said, a hidden path conducts the pallid ghosts, and dowers with many a death the spacious halls of swarthy Jove.^a If Arcadian husbandmen speak truth, shrieks

^a *i.e.*, Pluto.

stridor ibi et gemitus poenarum, atroque tumultu
fervet ager ; saepe Eumenidum vocesque manusque
in medium sonuere diem, Letique¹ triformis
ianitor agricolas campis auditus abegit.

Hac et tunc fusca volucer deus obsitus umbra 55
exsilit ad superos, infernaque nubila vultu
discutit et vivis adflatibus ora serenat.
inde per Arcturum mediaeque silentia Lunae
arva super populosque meat. Sopor obvius illi
Noctis agebat equos, trepidusque adsurgit honori 60
numinis et recto decedit limite caeli
inferior volat umbra deo, praereptaque noscit
sidera principiumque sui ; iamque ardua Cirrhae
pollutamque suo despectat Phocida busto.
ventum erat ad Thebas ; gemuit prope lmina nati 65
Laius et notos cunctatus inire penates.
ut vero et celsis suamet² iuga nixa columnis
vidit et infectos etiamnum sanguine currus,
paene retro turbatus abit : nec summa Tonantis
iussa nec Arcadiae retinent spiramina virgae. 70

Et tunc forte dies noto signata Tonantis
fulmine, praerupti cum te, tener Euhie, partus
transmisere patri. Tyriis ea causa colonis
insomnem ludo certatim educere noctem
suaserat ; effusi passim per tecta, per agros, 75
serta inter vacuosque mero crateras anhelum
proflabant sub luce deum ; tunc plurima buxus

¹ Letique *Pω* : Lethesque *Friesemann*.

² suamet *Pω* : sedem et *L*.

^a Mercury was born in Arcadia.

^b Bacchus, untimely born from Semele who was blasted by the lightning of Jove, and lodged in his father's thigh till he was ripe for birth.

^c *i.e.*, Thebans.

are heard there and the moaning of the damned, and the land is all astir with hurrying grisly forms ; often the cries and blows of the Furies have resounded till mid-day, and the baying of Death's tri-formed warder has scared the rustics from the fields.

By this way then did the nimble god, all wrapped about with dusky shadow, leap forth to the upper world, and shake from his face the vapours of the nether region, and make serene his countenance with draughts of living air. Thence by Aëcturus and the moon's mid silences o'er fields and cities he wends his way. Sleep, driving Night's coursers, met him, and rose abashed to salute his godhead, turning aside from his celestial path. Beneath the god flies the shade, and knows again his lost stars and the land that bore him ; and now he looks down on Crrha's heights and Phocis, that his own corpse polluted. Now they were come to Thebes, and hard by his own son's threshold Larus groaned, tarrying to enter the well-known house. But when he saw his own yoke hanging on the lofty pillars and the chariot still stained with blood, almost had he in wild fear turned back and fled, nor could the Thunderer's high commands restrain him, nor the waving of the Arcadian ^a wand.

That too chanced to be the day marked by the well-known falling of the Thunderer's brand, when thy birth's untimely hastening, O infant Euhus,^b caused thy sire to take thee to himself. Therein had the Tyrian settlers^c found cause to pass the night in sleepless rivalry of sport ; scattered far and wide through house and field, amid garlands and mixing-bowls drained dry they panted forth the wine-god under the light of day ; then many a boxwood

STATIUS

aeraque taurinos sonitu vincentia pulsus.¹
 ipse etiam gaudens nemorosa per avia sanas
 impulerat matres Baccho meliore Cithaeron; 80
 qualia per Rhodopen rabido convivia coetu
 Bistones aut mediae ponunt convallibus Ossae
 illis semianimum pecus excussaeque leonum
 ore dapes, et lacte novo domuisse furorem²
 luxus : at Ogygii si quando adflavit Iacchi 85
 saevus odor, tunc saxa manu, tunc pocula pulchrum
 spargere et immerito sociorum sanguine fuso
 instaurare diem festasque reponere mensas.
 Nox ea, cum tacita volucer Cyllenius aura
 regis Echionii stratis adlapsus, ubi ingens 90
 fuderat Assyriis exstructa tapetibus alto
 membra toro. pro gnara nihil mortalia fati
 corda sui ! capit ille dapes, habet ille soporem
 tunc senior quae iussus agit, neu falsa videri
 noctis imago queat, longaevi vatis opacos 95
 Tiresiae vultus vocemque et vellera nota
 induitur. mansere comae propexaque mento
 canities pallorque suus, sed falsa cucurrit
 infula per crines, glaucaeque innexus olivae
 vittarum provenit honos : dehinc tangere ramo 100
 pectora et has visus fatorum expromere voces :
 " non somni tibi tempus, iners, qui nocte sub alta,
 germani secure, iaces, ingentia dudum
 acta vocant rerumque graves, ignave, paratus.
 tu, veluti magnum si³ iam tollentibus austris 105

¹ taurinos sonitu vincentia pulsus *P*ω (ducentia *N* with
 vincentia written over) : Tyrrhenos sonitus vincentia pulsu
 Lachmann. ² furorem *P* : cruorem ω. ³ si ω : se *P*.

^a Thracians.

^b Eteocles.

^c Probably with reference to Sardanapalus (Assurbanipal),
 the Assyrian, proverbial for luxury (Juv. x. 362).

pipe resounded and cymbals louder than the beat of bull-hide drum. Cithaeron himself exultant had set prudent matrons flocking in a nobler frenzy through his pathless groves : even as the Bistonians ^a in wild concourse hold their revels upon Rhodope or in the depths of Ossa's vales. For them one of the flock snatched half-alive from the lion's jaw is a feast, and to abate their fury with new milk is luxury ; but when the fierce fragrance of Ogygian Iacchus breaths upon them, then how glorious to fling stones and goblets, and with the shedding of guiltless comrades' blood to begin the day anew and appoint once more the festal banquet !

Such was the night when the swift Cyllenian glided down on the silent air to the couch of the Echionian prince,^b where in huge bulk he had flung his limbs on a bed piled high with Assyrian ^c coverlets. Alas ! for mortal hearts that know not their destiny ! He feasts and he slumbers. Then the old man performs what he is bidden, and, lest he seem but a false phantom of the night, puts on the darkened visage of the ancient seer Tiresias, and his voice and well-known woollen bands. His own long hair and hoary beard combed downward from the chin remain, and his own pallid hue, but through his locks there runs the feigned circlet, and the sacred fillets entwined with the grey olive are plain to view. Then he seemed to touch his breast with the olive bough and give utterance to these fateful words : " This is no time of sleep for thee, thou sluggard, who liest careless of thy brother in the depth of night ! long time have great deeds summoned thee, slothful one, and weighty preparings for what shall be. But thou, even as if some ship's captain, while the south

STATIUS

Ionium nigra iaceat sub nube magister
 immemor armorum versantisque aequora clavi,
 cunctaris. iamque ille novis—scit Fama—superbit
 conubiis viresque parat, quis regna capessat,
 quis neget, inque tua senium sibi destinat aula. 110
 dant animos socer augurio fatalis Adrastus
 dotalesque Argi, nec non in foedera vitae
 pollutus placuit fraterno sanguine Tydeus.
 hinc tumor, et longus fratri promitteris exsul.
 ipse deum genitor tibi me miseratus ab alto 115
 mittit : habe Thebas, caecumque cupidine regni
 ausurumque eadem germanum expelle, nec ultra
 fraternos inhiantem obitus sine fidere coeptis
 fraudibus aut Cadmo dominas inferre Mycenae.”

Dixit, et abscedens—etenim iam pallida turbant 120
 sidera lucis equi—ramos ac vellera fronti
 deripuit, confessus avum, dirique nepotis
 incubuit stratis, iugulum mox caede patentem
 nudat et undanti perfundit vulnere somnum.
 illi rupta quies, attollit membra toroque 125
 eripitur¹ plenus monstribus, vanumque cruorem
 excutiens simul horret avum fratremque requirit.
 qualis ubi audito venantum murmure tigris
 horruit in maculas somnosque excussit inertes ;
 bella cupit laxatque genas et temperat ungues, 130
 mox ruit in turmas natisque alimenta cruentis

¹ eripitur *P* : erigitur *ω*.

winds are already raising the billows on the Ionian main, should lie idle beneath a black storm-cloud, forgetful of his tackling and of the rudder that sways the waters,—thou tarriest. And he even now—so Fame can tell—waxes proud of his new wedlock, and gets to himself might whereby to seize the realm and refuse thee thy part, and appoints himself an old age in thy halls. Adrastus, foretold by omen to be the father of his bride, and the Argive dowry raise his spirits, yea, and Tydeus, stained by a brother's blood, hath he graciously received into a lifelong bond. Hence swelling pride, and a promise to thy brother of long exile for thee. The sire of gods himself in pity sends me down to thee from on high : hold fast to Thebes, and drive away thy kinsman who is blind with lust of rule, and will dare as much against thyself, nor suffer him all agape for a brother's death to trust any more in the treachery he devises, nor to bring Mycenae to queen it over Cadmus."

He spoke, and departing—for already the sun's horses were driving in rout the pale stars—tore from his head the chaplet and woollen bands, and revealed himself his grandsire, then leaning over his dread grandson's couch bared his throat's open wound and flooded his sleep with streaming blood. The other, startled from his slumbers, springs up and leaps from the couch, full of horror, and shaking from him the phantom blood shrinks appalled from his grandsire and seeks out his brother. Just as when a tigress hearing the noise of hunters has grimly faced the nets and shaken off lazy sleep ; 'tis war she yearns for, and she loosens her jaws and trims her talons, and soon she rushes amid the companies and carries off in her mouth a man still breathing, to feed her

STATIUS

spirantem fert ore virum : sic excitus ira
ductor in absentem consumit proelia fratrem.

Et iam Mygdonus elata cubilibus alto
dispulerat¹ caelo gelidas Aurora tenebras, 135
rorantes excussa comas multumque sequenti
sole rubens ; illi roseus per nubila seras
advertit flammæ alienumque æthera tardo
Lucifer exit equo, donec pater igneus orbem
impleat atque ipsi radios vetet esse sorori : 140
cum senior Talaionides nec longa morati
Dircaeusque gradum pariterque Acheloius heros
corripuere toris. illos post verbera fessos
exceptamque hiemem cornu perfuderat omni
Somnus ; at Inachio tenuis sub pectore regi 145
tracta quies, dum mente deos inceptaque versat
hospitia, et quæ sint generis adscita repertis
fata movet. postquam mediis in sedibus aulae
congressi inque vicem dexteras iunxere locumque,
quo serere arcanas aptum atque evolvere curas, 150
insidunt, prior his dubios compellat Adrastus :
“ egregii iuvenum, quos non sine numine regnis
invenit nox dextra meis, quibus ipse per imbres
fulminibus mixtos intempestumque Tonantem
has meus usque domos vestigia fecit Apollo, 155
non equidem obscurum vobis plebique Pelasgae
esse rear, quantis conubia nostra procorum
turba petant studiis ; geminae mihi namque, nepotum
laeta fides, aequo pubescunt sidere natae.
quantus honos quantusque pudor, ne credite patri, 160

¹ dispulerat *Lachmann* : impulerat *Pw.*

^a Tithonus, her husband, was son of Laomedon, king of Phrygia ; Mygdonia was a part of Phrygia.

^b Adrastus was the son of Talaus ; Dirce was a fountain at Thebes, Achelous a river in Aetolia.

savage whelps : even so stirred by rage the chieftain dreams of war against his absent brother.

And now Aurora rising from her Mygdonian ^a resting-place had scattered the cold shadows from the high heaven, and shaking the dew-drops from her hair blushed deep in the sun's pursuing beams ; toward her through the clouds the rosy morning-star turns his late fires, and with slow steed leaves an alien world, until the fiery father's orb be full replenished and he forbid his sister to usurp his rays. Then did the aged son of Talaus and with no long delay the heroes twain of Dirce and of Achelous ^b rise swiftly from their couches. Upon them, wearied by blows and endurance of the storm, had Sleep poured all his horn's bounty ; but scant repose visited the breast of the Inachian monarch, while in his thoughts he broods upon heaven's will and the new ties of friendship, and wonders what destinies he is admitting to his house in his new-found sons-in-law. They meet in the mid chambers of the palace, and draw nigh and grasp each other's hand in turn, then seat themselves where they may best make interchange of secret counsel, and, the others hesitating, Adrastus thus begins : " Peerless youths, whom a propitious night has brought heaven-prompted to my realm, whose steps my own Apollo has guided even to my palace in spite of rain and lightning-flash and the Thunderer's unseasonable sky, I cannot deem it unknown to you and the Pelasgian folk, how zealous a crowd of suitors seeks alliance with my house ; for my two daughters, joyful pledge of grandchildren, are reaching equal years of full-grown maidenhood. How great their beauty and their modesty, trust not a father's word, nay, ye could

et super hesternas licuit cognoscere mensas.
 has tumidi solio et late dominantibus armis
 optavere viri—longum enumerare Pheraeos
 Oebaliosque duces—et Achaea per oppida matres
 spem generis, nec plura tuus despexerat Oeneus 165
 foedera Pisaeisque socer metuendus habenis.
 sed mihi nec Sparta genitos nec ab Elide missos
 iungere fas generos : vobis hic sanguis et aulae
 cura meae longo promittitur ordine fati.
 di bene, quod fas stirpemque animosque venitis, 170
 ut responsa iuvent : hic durae tempore noctis
 partus honos, haec illa venit post verbera merces.”

Audierant, fixosque oculos per mutua paulum
 ora tenent, visique inter sese ordine fandi
 cedere. sed cunctis Tydeus audentior actis 175
 incipit : “ o quam te parcum in praeconia famae
 mens agitat matura tuae, quantumque ferentem
 fortunam virtute domas ! cui cedat Adrastus
 imperiis ? quis te solio Sicyonis avitae
 excutum infrenos componere legibus Argos 180
 nesciat ? atque utinam his manibus permittere gentis,
 Iuppiter aequae, velis, quas Doricus alligat intus¹
 Isthmos et alterno quas margine submovet infra !
 non fugeret diras lux intercisae Mycenae,
 saeva nec Eleae gement certamina valles,² 185
 Eumenidesque alius aliae sub regibus, et quae

¹ intus *P* : undis *ω*.

² *After this line Duebner, Mueller, Kohlmann and Postgate recognize a lacuna ; it seems sufficient to understand fuissent in 186.*

^a *i.e.*, Thessalian and Spartan, from N. and S. Greece.

^b Oenomaus, who challenged the suitors of Hippodamia to a chariot-race, and slew them when they lost.

^c See note on i. 325.

^d See note on i. 166.

judge at yesterday's banquet. Many a one, with throne and wide-extending sway to boast of, has desired them—'twere long to tell the tale of Pheraean and Oebahan princes ^a—and mothers also throughout the towns of Achaea, for hope of posterity ; nor did Oeneus thy own father despise more proffered unions, nor the sire of Pisa's bride with his terrible chariot-reins.^b But none of Spartan birth nor of them that hail from Elis may I choose for my daughters' consorts : to you doth ancient destiny pledge my blood and the guardianship of my halls. The gods are gracious, in that ye come to me so high in birth and spirit that I rejoice in their oracles. This is the prize that the night's sufferings have won, this is your reward for the blows ye bore "

They heard him, and for a while held their eyes fixed in mutual gaze, seeming to yield each other place of speech. But Tydeus, in every deed more daring, begins : " O how sparingly doth thy sage mind impel thee to proclaim thy own renown, and how greatly by worth dost thou outdo all fortune's favour ! To whom should Adrastus yield in power ? Who knows not that thou, when driven from thy ancestral Sicyon's throne, didst give law to turbulent Argos ? and would that thou wert willing, O just Jupiter, to entrust to these hands the races that Dorian Isthmus contains within the interior lands, and those which it removes beneath its other bound ! The interrupted light would not have fled from dire Mycenae,^c nor would the vales of Elis have groaned at the fierce contests,^d nor divers Furies afflicted divers kings, nor happened all

STATIUS

tu potior, Thebane, queri : nos vero volentes
 expositique animis." sic interfatus et alter
 subicit : " anne aliquis soceros accedere tales
 abnuat ? exsulis quamquam patriaque fugatis 190
 nondum laeta Venus, tamen omnis corde resedit
 tristitia, adfixique animo cessere dolores.
 nec minus haec laeti trahimus solacia, quam si
 praecipiti convulsa noto prospectet amicam
 puppis humum. iuvat ingressos felicia regni 195
 omina, quod superest fati vitaeque laborum
 fortuna transire tua." nec plura morati
 consurgunt, dictis impensius aggerat omne
 promissum Inachus pater, auxilioque futurum
 et patriis spondet reduces inducere regnis. 200

Ergo alacres Argi, fuso rumore per urbem
 advenisse duci generos primisque hymenaeis
 egregiam Argian nec formae laude secundam
 Deipylon tumida iam virginitate iugari,
 gaudia mente parant ; socias it Fama per urbes, 205
 finitimisque agitur agris procul usque Lycaeos
 Partheniosque super saltus Ephyraeaeque rura
 nec minus Ogygias eadem dea turbida Thebas
 insilit. haec totis perfundit moenia pinnis
 Labdaciumque ducem praemissae consona nocti 210
 territat ; hospitia et thalamos et foedera regni
 permixtumque genus—quae tanta licentia monstro,
 quis furor ?—et iam¹ bella canit.

¹ furor ? et iam *Lachmann* : furor est iam *Pw.*

^a I understand "fuissent" with "Eumenides" and "quae," etc.

that thou, O Theban, canst best bewail.^a We verily are willing, and our hearts are open to thee." So spake he, and the other added: "Would any one refuse to welcome such a father of his bride? Though Venus smile not yet upon us exiles, banished from our land, nevertheless all sorrows of our hearts are calmed, and the grief is gone that held fast upon our minds. No less joyfully do we take unto us this solace, than a ship rent by the tearing gale beholds the friendly shore. We delight to enter upon a reign of happy omen, and to pass, under thy destiny, what remains of our allotted lives and labours." Without more ado they rise, and the Inachian sire adds weight of eager words to every promise, and vows that he will succour them and bring them back to their fathers' realms.

The Argives, therefore, as the report spreads through the city that husbands for his daughters have come to the king's court, and that illustrious Argia, and Deipyle famed no less for beauty, are giving in wedlock their lusty maidenhood, eagerly prepare for great rejoicing. Fame flies through the kindred cities, and is carried from lip to lip in the neighbouring lands even as far as the Lycaean and beyond Parthenian glades and the Ephyrean^b countryside, nor less does the same tumultuous goddess descend upon Ogygian Thebes. With wings full-stretched she broods over those walls, bringing terror that accords with the past night to the Labdacian chief: the welcome and the marriage does she relate, and the royal covenant and the union of houses—what mad licence in the devilish monster's tongue!—and at last she tells of war.

^b Ephyre was an old name of Corinth.

STATIUS

Diffuderat Argos

exspectata dies : laeto regalia coetu
 atria complentur, species est cernere avorum 215
 comminus et vivis certantia vultibus aera.
 tantum ausae perferre manus ¹ pater ipse bicornis
 in laevum prona nixus sedet Inachus urna ;
 hunc tegit Iasiusque senex placidusque Phoroneus,
 et bellator Abas indignatusque Tonantem 220
 Acrisius nudoque ferens caput ense Coroebus,
 torvaque iam Danai facinus meditantis imago ;
 exin mille duces. foribus tum ¹ immissa superbis
 unda fremit volgi, procerum manus omnis et alto
 quis propior de rege gradus, stant ordine primi. 225
 interior sacris calet et sonat aula tumultu
 femineo ; casta matrem ² cinxere corona
 Argolides, pars virginibus circum undique fusae
 foedera conciliant nova solanturque timorem.
 ibant insignes vultuque habituque verendo 230
 candida purpureum fusae super ora pudorem
 deiectaeque genas ; tacite subit ille supremus
 virginitatis amor, primaeque modestia culpae
 confundit vultus ; tunc ora rigantur honestis
 imbris, et teneros lacrimae iuvare parentes. 235
 non secus ac supero pariter si cardine lapsae
 Pallas et asperior Phoebi soror, utraque telis,
 utraque torva genis flavoque in vertice nodo,
 illa suas Cyntho comites agat, haec Aracyntho ;

¹ tum *Baehrens*: cum *Pω*. ² matrem *PKQ*: matrum *ω*.

^a Or perhaps, "had gladdened the Argives," by an extension of "animum diffundere," cf. *Ov. A. A.* i. 218 "diffundetque animos omnibus ista dies."

^b Because Jupiter visited his daughter Danae in the brazen tower. For Coroebus see i. 605 *sq.* The "murder" was that of their husbands by the Danaïdes.

The long-expected day had spread the Argives all abroad ^a: the royal halls are filled with joyous gathering, here may they look face to face upon their forefathers, and see bronzes that vie with the living countenance. So much hath skill dared and wrought! Father Inachus himself, twin-horned, leans leftward upon his tilted urn; old Iasius supports him and calm Phoroneus and warrior Abas, and Acrisius angry with the Thunderer,^b and Coroebus bearing a head upon his naked sword, and the grim likeness of Danaus already meditating murder; and many a prince thereafter. Then the common folk in clamorous flood are given entrance at the proud portals, while the whole company of chiefs and all who in degree stand nigh the monarch's majesty take first place of rank. Within, the palace is all aglow with sacrificial fires, and loud with female tumult; a chaste band of Argive women surrounds the mother-queen, others thronging about the maidens reconcile them to the new bonds and reassure their timorous hearts. They moved in splendour and majesty of look and dress, with eyes cast down and modest blush suffusing all their fairness; that last regretful love of maidenhood steals silently into their hearts, and the first shame of guilt overwhelms their countenances; then a generous rain bedews their cheeks, and tears bring joy to their tender-hearted parents. Just so might Pallas and Phoebus' sterner sister^c glide down together from high heaven, terrible alike in armour and in looks, and with golden hair braided on their heads, bringing their maiden company, from Cynthus she and she

^a *i.e.*, Diana, as the huntress; "sterner," perhaps by comparison with other daughters of Jove, *e.g.* Venus; not with Pallas, who is here the goddess of war, *cf.* l. 243 ("cristas").

STATIUS

tunc, si fas oculis, non umquam longa tuendo 240
expedias, cui maior honos, cui gratior, aut plus
de Iove, mutatosque velint transumere cultus,
et Pallas deceat pharetras et Delia cristas.

Certant laetitia superosque in vota fatigant
Inachidae, quae cuique domus sacrique facultas. 245
hi fibris animaque litant, hi caespite nudo,
nec minus auditi, si mens accepta, merentur¹
ture deos, fractisque obtendunt limina silvis.
ecce metu subito—Lachesis sic dura iubebat—
impulsae mentes, excussaue gaudia patri, 250
et turbata dies. innuptam limine² adibant
Pallada, Monychiis cui non Argiva per urbes
posthabita est Larissa iugis; hic more parentum
Iasides, thalamis ubi casta adolesceret aetas,
virgineas libare comas primosque solebant 255
excusare toros. celsam subeuntibus arcem
in gradibus summi delapsus culmine templi,
Arcados Euhippi spoliū, cadit aereus orbis,
praemissasque faces, festum nubentibus ignem,
obruit, eque adytis simul exaudita remotis 260
nondum ausos firmare gradum tuba terruit ingens.
in regem conversi omnes formidine prima,
mox audisse negant; cunctos tamen omina rerum
dira movent, variisque metum sermonibus augent.
nec mirum: nam tum infaustos donante marito 265

¹ merentur *P*: meretur *ω*.

² innuptam limine *Pω*: innupto in limine *Garrod conj.*
and cp. v. 68 nupta limina.

^a Mountains in Delos and on the border of Attica respectively.

^b Possibly, as Klotz suggests, because those who were about to be brides were not allowed to enter the temple of "innupta Pallas."

^c *i.e.*, Athenian.

from Aracynthus^a; then wouldst thou never learn by long gazing, even had thine eyes leave to gaze, which had the greater beauty, which the greater charm, or which had more of Jove, and were they but pleased to take each other's dress, Pallas would beseech the quiver and Deha the crested helmet.

The sons of Inachus contend in rivalry of joy, and weary the gods with vows, as each had household-gear and power of offering. These make supplication with entrails and the victim's life, those with bare turf; others, heard no less, if their heart be accepted, would fain win merit of the gods by incense, and shade their portals with the spoil of the woodlands. But lo! a sudden fear—so cruel Lachesis commanded—strikes on their hearts and robs the sire of his rejoicing, and turns the day to gloom. On her threshold^b they were drawing nigh to Pallas the unwedded, who among cities prefers not the Munychian^c hills to Argive Larissa; here by ancestral rite the daughters of Iasus, so soon as their chaste years grew ripe for wedlock, were wont to make offering of virgin tresses, and pray pardon for the first marriage-bed. As they climb the steps and approach the lofty pile, there fell from the temple's highest summit a brazen shield, the spoil of Arcadian Euhippus, and overwhelmed the heralding torches, the festal light of the marriage train; and while they dare not yet to make sure advance, a mighty trumpet-blare, heard from the shrine's inmost recesses, filled them with terror. All at the first shock of panic turned toward the king, then denied they had heard aught; yet all are troubled by the event's dire omen, and increase their fear by various talk. Nor was it wonderful: for thou wast wearing, Argia,

STATIUS

ornatus, Argia, geris dirumque monile
 Harmoniae. longa est series, sed¹ nota malorum
 persequar, unde novis tam saeva potentia donis.
 Lemnius haec, ut prisca fides, Mavortia longum
 furta dolens, capto postquam nil obstat amori 270
 poena nec ultrices castigavere catenae,
 Harmoniae dotale decus sub luce iugali
 struxerat. hoc, docti quamquam maiora, laborant
 Cyclopes, notique operum Telchines amica
 certatim iuvare manu ; sed plurimus ipsi 275
 sudor. ibi arcano florentis igne zmaragdos
 cingit et infaustas percussum adamanta figuras
 Gorgoneosque orbes Siculaque incude relictos
 fulminis extremi cineres viridumque draconum
 lucentes a fronte iubas ; hic flebile germen 280
 Hesperidum et dirum Phrixei velleris aurum ;
 tum varias pestes raptumque interplicat atro
 Tisiphones de crine ducem, et quae pessima ceston
 vis probat ; haec circum spumis lunaribus ungit
 callidus atque hilari perfundit cuncta veneno. 285
 non hoc Pasithea blandarum prima sororum,
 non Decor Idalusque puer, sed Luctus et Irae

¹ sed *Pw* : et *Baehrens*, who with most *edd.* punctuates after malorum, whence *Lachmann* condemned 268.

^a Daughter of Venus and wife of Cadmus.

^b Vulcan. The reference is to the famous bed which he contrived. It was fitted with chains which closed upon Venus and Mars as they lay together on the bed. (See *Hom. Od.* viii. 266 f.) Harmonia was the daughter of Venus and Mars.

^c Statius must mean amber, wept by the daughters of the sun when turned into poplars, but he calls them Hesperides (as being in the west) instead of Heliades.

^d The girdle of Venus is spoken of as having power to instil desire ; see *Hom. Il.* xiv. 214.

the ill-starred ornament of thy husband's giving, the dread necklace of Harmonia.^a Far back the story runs, but I will pursue the well-known tale of woes, whence came it that a new gift had such terrible power.

The Lemnian,^b so they of old believed, long time distressed at Mars' deceit and seeing that no punishment gave hindrance to the disclosed amour, and the avenging chains removed not the offence, wrought this for Harmonia on her bridal day to be the glory of her dower. Thereat, though taught mightier tasks, the Cyclopes labour, and the Telchines famed for their handiwork helped in friendly rivalry of skill ; but for himself the sweat of toil was heaviest. There forms he a circlet of emeralds glowing with a hidden fire, and adamant stamped with figures of ill omen, and Gorgon eyes, and embers left on the Sicilian anvil from the last shaping of a thunderbolt, and the crests that shine on the heads of green serpents ; then the dolorous fruit of the Hesperides^c and the dread gold of Phrixus' fleece ; then divers plagues doth he intertwine, and the king adder snatched from Tisiphone's grisly locks, and the wicked power that commends the girdle^d ; all these he cunningly anoints about with lunar foam,^e and pours over them the poison of delight. Not *Pasithea*,^f eldest of the gracious sisters, nor Charm nor the Idalian youth did mould it, but Grief, and all the Passions, and Anguish,

^a For this *cf.* Val. Fl. *Arg* vi. 447 ; Apuleius, *Met.* i. 3. It was supposed that witches could obtain foam or spume from the moon when they drew it down to earth, and so made their poisons more deadly.

^f The eldest of the Graces ; their names were more commonly said to be *Aglaia*, *Euphrosyne*, and *Thalia*.

STATIUS

et Dolor et tota pressit Discordia dextra.
 prima fides operi, Cadmum comitata iacentem
 Harmonia versis in sibila dira querellis 290
 Illyricos longo sulcavit pectore campos.
 improba mox Semele vix dona nocentia collo
 induit, et fallax intravit limina Iuno.
 teque etiam, infelix, perhibent, Iocasta, decorum
 possedissee nefas; vultus hac laude¹ colebas, 295
 heu quibus, heu placitura toris! post longior ordo.
 tunc donis Argia nitet vilisque sororis
 ornatus sacro præculta supervenit auro.
 viderat hoc coniunx perituri vatiss et aras
 ante omnis epulasque trucem secreta coquebat 300
 invidiam, saevis detur si quando potiri
 cultibus, heu nihil auguriis adiuta propinquis.
 quos optat gemitus, quantas cupit impia clades!
 digna quidem, sed quid miseri decepta mariti
 arma, quid insonites nati meruere furores? 305
 Postquam regales epulas et gaudia vulgi
 bissemi clusere dies, Ismenius heros
 respicere ad Thebas iamque et sua quaerere regna.
 quippe animum subit illa dies, qua, sorte benigna
 fratris, Echionia steterat privatus in aula, 310
 respiciens descisse² deos trepidoque tumultu
 dilapsos comites, nudum latus omne fugamque

¹ laude *Pw*: fraude *Garrod*, luce *Baehrens*.

² descisse *w*: discisse *P* (*ci from ce, i.e. discess(iss)e*).

^a According to the legend, Harmonia and Cadmus her husband were turned into serpents, and ended their lives in Illyria.

^b Juno persuaded Semele to ask her lover Jupiter to reveal himself to her as Wielder of the Lightning; he did so, and Semele was blasted by the stroke, and died giving birth to Bacchus.

^c Eriphyle, wife of Amphiaraus, in exchange for the neck-

and Discord, with all the craft of her right hand. The work first proved its worth, when Harmonia's complaints turned to dreadful hissing, and she bore company to grovelling Cadmus, and with long trailing breast drew furrows in the Illyrian fields.^a Next, scarce had shameless Semele put the hurtful gift about her neck, when lying Juno crossed her threshold.^b Thou too, unhappy Jocasta, didst, as they say, possess the beauteous, baleful thing, and didst deck thy countenance with its praise—on what a couch, alas ! to find favour ; and many more beside. Last Argia shines in the splendour of the gift, and in pride of ornament and accursed gold surpassed her sister's mean attiring. The wife of the doomed prophet^c had beheld it, and at every shrine and banquet in secret cherished fierce jealousy, if only it might ever be granted her to possess the terrible jewel, nought profited, alas ! by omens near at hand. What bitter tears she doth desire ! to what ruin tend her impious wishes ! Worthy is she, indeed, but what hath her hapless consort deserved, and his deluded arms ? And what the guiltless frenzy of her son ?

When twice six days had ended the regal banquetting and the rejoicing of the people, the Ismenian hero turned his gaze toward Thebes, and would fain now be seeking his kingdom. For he recalls that day, when by the hazard that favoured his brother he stood in Echion's palace stripped of power, and saw his cause deserted by the gods and his friends all slunk away in hurry and alarm, himself defenceless persuaded her husband to go to the war, where he met his death. Her son Alcmaeon is said to have slain his mother in revenge (305).

STATIUS

fortunae. namque una soror producere tristis
 exsulis ausa vias ; etiam hanc in limine primo
 liquerat et magna lacrimas incluserat ira. 315
 tunc quos excedens hilares, quis cultus iniqui
 praecipuus ducis, et profugo quos ipse notarat
 ingemuisse sibi, per noctem ac luce sub omni
 digerit ; exedere animum dolor iraque demens
 et, qua non gravior mortalibus addita curis, 320
 spes, ubi longa venit. talem sub pectore nubem
 consilii volvens Dirce Cadmique negatas
 adparat ire domos. veluti dux taurus amata
 valle carens, pulsum solito quem gramine victor
 iussit ab erepta longe mugire iuvenca, 325
 cum profugo placuere tori cervixque recepto
 sanguine magna redit fractaeque in pectora quercus,¹
 bella cupit pastusque et capta armenta reposcit
 iam pede, iam cornu melior—pavet ipse reversum
 victor, et attoniti vix agnovere magistri— : 330
 non alias tacita iuvenis Teumesius iras
 mente acuit. sed fida vias arcanaque coniunx
 senserat ; utque toris primo complexa iacebat
 aurorae pallore virum, “ quos, calhde, motus
 quamve fugam moliris ? ” ait “ nil transit amantes. 335
 sentio, pervigiles acuunt suspiria questus,
 numquam in pace sopor. quotiens haec ora natare
 fletibus et magnas latrantia² pectora curas

¹ in pectora quercus *PB* (with vires written over) : in pectore ω , vires *DKS*, vires *Q* (with quercus written over).

² latrantia *PBN* : iactantia ω .

less on every side and all his fortune fled. For but one sister had dared to escort the exile on his sad path; from her even had he parted, his journey scarce begun, and in deep anger repressed his tearful grief. Then nightly and day by day does he recount in order those whose joy he marked as he went forth, those who were foremost in flattery of the unjust prince, or whom he had himself seen to bewail his exile; anguish devours his mind, and furious wrath, and hope, than which the heart can bear no heavier burden, when 'tis long deferred. Brooding thus in his mind upon a cloud of care, he makes ready to set out for Dirce and the Cadmean home denied him. Even as a chieftain bull, banished from his loved valley, whom a conqueror has driven from his wonted meadow and bidden low far parted from his stolen love, yet anon in exile takes pleasure in his mighty thews, and his neck fresh-blooded waxes strong again, and he bethinks him of the oaks that he has shattered, and eager for battle demands back the pastures and the captive herds; already in speed of foot and power of horn hath he the mastery, his conqueror himself is dismayed at his return, and the astonished herdsmen scarce know him for the same. not otherwise does the Teumesian youth sharpen his wrath in brooding silence. But his faithful wife had marked his secret yearning to be gone, and lying on the couch in the first pale light of dawn, her arms about her lord, "What thoughts of flight," she said, "are these thou ponderest? nought escapes a lover's eye. I know thy wakeful complainings and thy bitter sighs, thy ever-troubled slumber. How often touching thee with my hand do I find this face all wet with tears, and thy breast loud groaning with

STATIUS

admota deprendo manu ? nil foedere rupto
 conubiisve super moveor viduaeque iuventa, 340
 etsi crudus amor necdum post flammae toti
 intepuere tori : tua me, properabo fateri,
 angit,¹ amate,² salus. tune incommitatus, inermis
 regna petes poterisque tuus decedere Thebis,
 si neget ? atque illum sollers deprendere semper 345
 fama duces tumidum narrat raptoque superbum
 difficilemque tibi : necdum consumpserat³ annum.
 me quoque nunc vates, nunc exta minantia divos
 aut avium lapsus aut turbida noctis imago 349
 terret, et a ! memini, numquam mihi falsa per umbras
 Iuno venit. quo tendis iter ? ni conscius ardor
 ducit et ad Thebas melior socer." hic breve tandem
 risit Echionius iuvenis tenerumque dolorem
 coniugis amplexu solatus et oscula maestis
 tempestiva genis posuit lacrimasque repressit ; 355
 " solve metus animo, dabitur, mihi crede, merentum
 consiliis tranquilla dies ; te fortior annis
 nondum cura decet. sciat haec Saturnius olim
 fata parens, oculosque polo demittere si quos
 Iustitia et rectum terris defendere curat : 360
 fors aderit lux illa tibi, qua moenia cernes
 coniugis et geminas ibis regina per urbes."
 Sic ait, et caro raptim se limine profert.
 Tydea iam socium coeptis, iam pectore fido

¹ angit *Pw* : tangit *Bentley*. ² amate *KC* : amata *Pw*.

³ consumpserat *Pw* : consumpserit *Heinsius*.

^a *i.e.*, when you fled from Thebes ; he will be all the fiercer when his year is over. The old emendation *consumpserit* ("nor will he have reigned") misses the point.

thy weight of cares ! 'Tis not the sundering of our marriage-bond that moves me, nor a widowed youth ; although our love is still fresh, nor has our couch yet since the bridal lost the first glow of passion. 'Tis thy own safety, O beloved—I hasten to confess it—that wrings my heart. Wilt thou seek thy realm unarmed, unfriended, and be able to quit thine own Thebes, should he refuse it ? Yea, Report, that is ever cunning to catch the mind of princes, tells that he is proud and arrogant in his stolen power, and ill-disposed to hear thee ; nor had he yet reigned a full year.^a Terrified too am I now by soothsayers, now by entrails that speak of threatening gods, by flight of birds, or by disturbing visions of the night ; and ah ! never do I call to mind that Juno came falsely to me in my dreams. Whither doth thy journey lead thee ? except it be a secretly cherished passion that draws thee to Thebes, and union with a nobler house." Then at last the Echionian youth brief-laughing consoled his wife's tender grief, and set timely kisses on her sorrowful cheeks and stayed her tears : " Free thy mind of fear ; prudent counsels, believe me, win peaceful days ; cares beyond thy years become thee not. But should one day the Saturnian father take knowledge of my fate, and Justice, if she think at all to glance down from heaven and defend the right on earth : then perchance that day shall dawn for thee, when thou shalt see thy husband's walls, and go in queenly pomp through two cities."

So saying he hurried forth from the chamber that he loved, and sadly accosts Tydeus, already the partner of his enterprise, already sharing his troubles

STATIUS

aequantem curas—tantus post iurgia mentes 365
vinxit amor—socerumque adfatur tristis Adrastum.
fit mora consilio, cum multa moventibus una
iam potior cunctis sedit sententia, fratris
pertemptare fidem tutosque in regna precando
explorare aditus. audax ea munera Tydeus 370
sponte subit; nec non et te, fortissime gentis
Aetolum, multum lacrimis conata morari
Deipyle, sed iussa patris tutique regressus
legato iustaeque preces vicere sororis.

Iamque emensus iter silvis ac litore durum, 375
qua Lernaee palus ambustaque sontibus alte
intepet hydra vadis, et qua vix carmine raro
longa sonat Nemeae nondum pastoribus ausis,
qua latus Eoos Ephyres quod vergit ad euros
Sisyphique sedent portus irataque terrae 380
curva Palaemonio secluditur unda Lechaeo.¹
hinc praetervectus Nisum et te, mitis Eleusin,
laevus abit,² iamque arva gradu Teumesia et arces
intrat Agenoreas; ibi durum Eteoclea cernit
sublimem solio saeptumque horrentibus armis. 385
iura ferus populo trans legem ac tempora regni
iam fratris de parte dabat; sedet omne paratus
in facinus queriturque fidem tam sero reposci.

Constitit in mediis—ramus manifestat olivae
legatum—causasque viae nomenque rogatus 390

¹ Lechaeo *PDN*: liceo *ω*; *cf.* *Silv.* ii. 2. 35.

² abit *PB*: habet (1 *over* e) *Q*: habet *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, after the slaughter of the Nemean lion.

^b Lechaeum was the port of Corinth (Ephyre), where Sisyphus had been king. For the reverse journey *cf.* i. 312 *sq.*

with faithful heart—so strong the bond of love that united them after their quarrel—and Adrastus, father of his spouse. Long time do they hold counsel, when after pondering many a scheme one plan at last finds preference with all, to make trial of his brother's constancy and seek by humble request a safe return to the realm. Bold Tydeus volunteers the mission; yea, and thee too, bravest of the Aetolian race, would Deipyle fain stay by many a tear, but her father's command and the assurance of an envoy's safe return and her sister's just entreaties make her yield.

And now he had accomplished the full measure of a journey made rough by forests and seashore: where lay the marsh of Lerna and the burnt Hydra's heat makes warm the depths of those unrighteous waters, and where through the length of Nemea scarce is heard the scanty song of the yet timid shepherds^a: where Ephyre's eastern side slopes to the winds of Orient and the Sisyphean havens lie, and the wave that vents its wrath upon the land lies in the curved retreat of Lechaëum sacred to Palæmon.^b Thence passes he by Nisus, leaving thee, kindly Eleusis, on his left hand, and at last treads the Teumesian fields and enters the Agenorean towers. There he beholds the cruel Eteocles high upon a throne and girt round with bristling spears. The appointed season of his reign already past, he was holding the folk under savage governance in his brother's stead; prepared for every crime he sits, and complains of so late a claiming of his promise.

Standing in the midst—the branch of olive proclaims him ambassador—when asked his name he declared it and the purpose of his coming; then, rude

STATIUS

edidit ; utque rudis fandi pronusque calori
 semper erat, iustis miscens tamen aspera coepit :
 “ si tibi plana fides et dicti cura maneret
 foederis, ad fratrem completo iustius anno
 legatos hinc ire fuit teque ordine certo 395
 fortunam exuere et laetum descendere regno,
 ut vagus ille diu passusque haud digna per urbes
 ignotas pactae tandem succederet aulae.
 sed quia dulcis amor regni blandumque potestas,
 posceris ; astriferum iam velox circulus orbem 400
 torsit et amissae redierunt montibus umbrae,
 ex quo frater inops ignota per oppida tristes
 exsul agit casus ; et te iam tempus aperto
 sub Iove ferre dies terrenaque frigora membris
 ducere et externos submissum ambire penates. 405
 pone modum laetis ; satis oestro dives et auro
 conspicuus tenuem germani pauperis annum
 risisti ; moneo, regnorum gaudia temet
 dedoceas patiensque fugae mereare reverti ”
 Dixerat. ast illi tacito sub pectore dudum 410
 ignea corda fremunt, iacto velut aspera saxo
 comminus erigitur serpens, cui subter inanes
 longa sitis latebras totumque agitata per artus
 convocat in fauces et squamea colla venenum :
 “ cognita si dubus fratris mihi iurgia signis 415
 ante forent nec clara odiorum arcana paterent,
 sufficeret vel sola fides, qua¹ torvus et² illum
 mente gerens,³ ceu saepta novus iam moenia laxet

¹ qua *Klotz* : quam *Pω* : quod *Postgate*.

² torvus et *ω* : servo sed *P*.

³ gerens *Pω* : geris *DN*.

^a *i.e.*, the shade of the leaves which have fallen and grown again.

of speech as ever and quick to anger, and with mixture of harsh words, although his plea was just, he thus began : " Hadst thou simple honesty left thee and regard for a sworn bond, 'twere more right that envoys should go hence to thy brother, now thy year is finished, and that thou in due course shouldst put off thy state and contentedly leave thy throne, so that he, after long wanderings and unseemly hardships in many a strange city, should at length succeed to the promised kingdom. But since thy darling passion is to reign, and power exerts its flattering charm, we summon thee ; already hath the swift circle brought round the starry globe, and the mountains have regained the shadows that they lost,^a since thy brother hath suffered the unhappy lot of poverty and exile in unknown cities ; now is it time thou too didst spend thy days under Jove's open sky, and let earth's coldness freeze thy limbs, and pay submissive court at the hearths of strangers. Set a term to thy prosperity ; long enough in rich pomp of gold and purple hast thou mocked at thy brother's year of mean poverty ; I warn thee, unlearn of thine own will the joys of ruling, and in patient exile merit thy return."

He ended, but the other's fiery heart rages beneath his silent breast, as when a serpent angered by a flung stone darts up close at hand, whose limbs long thirst has racked, down in its hollow lair, and gathered all the venom to its throat and scaly neck. " Had they been doubtful signs that forewarned me of my brother's quarrel, did not his secret hate shine clear as day to me, that bold assurance alone would suffice, whereby you, in mind his very pattern, thus prelude his fury, as though already a new train of

STATIUS

fossor et hostiles inimicent classica turmas,
 praefuris. in medios si comminus orsa tulisses 420
 Bistonas aut refugo pallentes sole Gelonos,
 parcioreloquio et medii reverentior aequi
 inciperes. neque te furibundae crimine mentis
 arguerim : mandata refers. nunc omnia quando
 plena minis, nec sceptrafide nec pace sequestra 425
 poscitis, et propior capulo manus, haec mea regi
 Argolico, nondum aequa tuis, vice dicta reporta :
 quae sors iusta mihi, quae non indebitus annis
 sceptradicavit honos, teneo longumque tenebo.
 te penes Inachiae dotalis regia dono 430
 coniugis, et Danaae—quid enim maioribus actis¹
 invideam ?—cumulentur opes, felicibus Argos
 auspiciis Lernamque regas ; nos horrida Dirces
 pascua et Euboicis artatas fluctibus oras,
 non indignati miserum dixisse parentem 435
 Oedipoden : tibi larga—Pelops et Tantalus auctor !—
 nobilitas, propiorque fluat de sanguine iuncto
 Iuppiter. anne feret luxu consueta paterno
 hunc regina larem ? nostrae cui iure sorores
 anxia pensa trahant, longo quam sordida luctu 440
 mater et ex imis auditus forte tenebris
 offendat sacer ille senex ! iam pectora volgi
 adsuevere iugo : pudet heu ! plebisque patrumque,
 ne totiens incerta ferant mutentque gementes

¹ actis *Pw* : aulis *Madvig*.

^a The Argive house was more directly descended from Jove than that of Oedipus.

sappers were breaching our fenced walls, and the trumpets were kindling the hostile bands to fierceness. Even if thou hadst been speaking to Bistomians face-to-face in their midst, or to the pale Geloni, on whom the sun shines not, thou wouldst have been more sparing of thy eloquence, and more observant of what is fair and just, in opening thy cause. Nor would I accuse thee of this madness: thou speakest but at command. Now, therefore, since all your words are threats, and ye demand the sceptre with warrant neither of trust nor peace, and your hands are ever on the sword-hilt, carry back in turn this message of mine, far short of thine as yet, to the Argolic prince: The fortune that is my right, the sceptre that due privilege of years hath assigned me, I hold, and will hold long. Keep thou thy royal dower, the gift of thy Inachian consort, pile up thy Danaan treasure—for why should I envy thee those nobler deeds?—rule Argos and Lerna under happy auspices! Be it mine to hold the rough pastures of Dirce, and the shores narrowed by the Euboean waves, nor think it shame to call unhappy Oedipus my sire! Let ancestral splendour be thy boast—scion of Pelops and Tantalus!—and by a nearer channel of descent unite Jove's blood with thine.^a Will thy queen, accustomed to her father's luxury, endure this simple home? rightly would my sisters perform their anxious tasks for her, my mother, unsightly from long mourning, and that accursed dotard, heard clamouring perchance from his dark seclusion, would give her offence! The people's minds are already accustomed to my yoke; I am ashamed, alas! for the folk and elders alike, lest they should suffer so oft the uncertainty of fortune

STATIUS

imperia et dubio pigeat parere tyranno. 445
 non parcit populis regnum breve ; respice, quantus
 horror et attoniti nostro in discrimine cives !
 hosne ego, quis certa est sub te duce poena, relin-
 quam ?
 iratus, germane, venis. fac velle : nec ipsi,
 si modo notus amor meritique est gratia, patres 450
 reddere regna sinent." non ultra passus et orsa
 iniecit medus sermonibus obvia : " reddes,"
 ingeminat, " reddes ; non si te ferreus agger
 ambiat aut triplices alio tibi carmine muros
 Amphion auditus agat, nil tela nec ignes 455
 obstiterint, quin ausa luas nostrisque sub armis
 captivo moribundus humum diademate pulses.
 tu merito ; ast horum miseret, quos sanguine viles
 coniugibus natisque infanda ad proelia raptos
 proicis excidio, bone rex. o quanta Cithaeron 460
 funera sanguineusque vadis, Ismene, rotabis !
 haec pietas, haec magna fides ! nec crimina gentis
 mira equidem duco : sic primus sanguinis auctor
 incestique patrum thalami ; sed fallit origo :
 Oedipodis¹ tu solus eras,² haec praemia morum 465
 ac sceleris, violente, feres¹ nos poscimus annum ;
 sed moror." haec audax etiamnum in limine retro³
 vociferans iam tunc impulsa per agmina praeceps
 evolat. Oeneae vindex sic ille Dianae
 erectus saetis et adunca fulmine malae, 470

¹ Oedipodis *Jortin* : Oedipodes *Pw.*

² eras *P* : eris *Deipser.*

³ retro *w* : regis *P.*

^a The Calydonian boar, who avenged the neglected worship of Diana.

and the distressful change of rulers, and unwillingly obey a doubtful throne. Unsparring to a people is a short reign ; turn and behold the dismay and horror of my citizens at my danger ! Shall I abandon these, whom under thy sway sure punishment awaits ? 'Tis in anger, O kinsman, that thou comest. Or suppose me willing : the fathers themselves will not suffer me to render up the crown, if I but know their love and there is gratitude for all my bounty." No more endured he, but even in mid-speech flung at him this retort : " Thou shalt restore," he cries, and again, " Thou shalt restore ! Nay, should an iron rampart fence thee, or Amphion with the strains of another song draw about thee a triple wall, in no wise shall fire or sword defend thee from paying for thy bold deed, and, ere thou die, beating thy captive diadem on the ground beneath our arms. Such a fate wilt thou deserve ; those do I pity, whose cheap lives thou dost seize and hurl to death in horrid butchery, worthy king, and their wives and babes withal. What carnage shalt thou see, Cithaeron, and thou, Ismenus, roll down upon thy blood-stained waters ! This then is loyalty, and this thy trusted word ! Nor marvel I at the crimes of your race ; such was the first author of your blood, such your incestuous sires ; but there is a flaw in your parentage, thou only art the son of Oedipus, and this, O man of violence, shall be the reward of thy sin and crime ! We claim our year ! But I waste words— " Boldly thus he shouted back while still in the doorway, then dashed out headlong through their disordered ranks. Even so the famous champion of Oenean Diana,^a with bristles stiff and lightning stroke of tusked jaw, hard pressed though he be by the

STATIUS

cum premeret Pelopea phalanx, saxa obvia volvens
 fractaque perfossis arbusta Acheloia ripis,
 iam Telamona solo, iam stratum Ixiona linquens
 te, Meleagre, subit : ibi¹ demum cuspidē lata
 haesit et obnixo ferrum laxavit² in armo. 475
 talis adhuc trepidum linquit Calydonius heros
 concilium infrendens, ipsi ceu regna negentur,
 festinatque vias ramumque precantis olivae
 abicit. attonitae tectorum e limine summo
 aspectant matres, saevoque infanda precantur 480
 Oenidae tacitoque simul sub pectore regi.

Nec piger ingenio scelerum fraudisque nefandae
 rector eget. iuvenum fidos, lectissima bello
 corpora, nunc pretio, nunc ille hortantibus ardens
 sollicitat dictis, nocturnaque proelia saevus 485
 instruit, et sanctum populis per saecula nomen
 legatum insidiis tacitoque invadere ferro—
 quid regnis non vile?—cupit. quas quaereret artes,
 si fratrem, Fortuna, dares ! o caeca nocentum
 consilia ! o semper timidum scelus ! exit in unum 490
 plebs ferro iurata caput ; ceu castra subire
 apparet aut celsum crebri arietis ictibus³ urbis
 inclinare latus : densi sic agmine facto
 quinquaginta altis funduntur in ordine portis.
 macte animi, tantis dignus qui crederis armis ! 495

Fert via per dumos propior, qua calle latenti
 praecelerant densaeque legunt compendia silvae.

¹ ibi ω : tibi P.

² laxavit P : lassavit *Madvig*.

³ crebri arietis ictibus *Unger* : crebris arietibus Pω.

Argive band, that rolls down stones upon him and boughs of trees uprooted from Achelous' banks, yet leaves now Telamon, now Ixion prostrate on the ground, and attacks thee, Meleager; there at last was he stayed upon the spear-thrust, and relaxed the weapon's force in his fierce-struggling shoulder. Such was the Calydonian hero, as he left the yet timorous council, with savage threats, as though 'twere he who was denied the kingdom; he hastes away, hurling from him the branch of olive. The mothers in amazement watch him from their thresholds' edge, and utter curses on the fierce son of Oeneus, and withal in their secret hearts upon the king.

But the monarch is not slothful, nor lacks cunning resource of crime and fraud unspeakable. A faithful company of chosen warriors he urges now by bribes, now by ardour of persuasive words, and fiercely plots a nocturnal affray, and would fain attack the ambassador—a name revered by peoples through the ages—by treachery and the silent-lurking sword. What is there that kings hold not vile? What cunning would he devise, were it his brother thou didst place in his power, O Fortune! O blind and guilty counsels! O ever timorous crime! A sworn band of soldiery go out against one single life, as though they made ready to storm a camp or level a city's lofty side with the ram's battering blows; fifty thus form close array, and march in order through the tall gates. Heaven favour now thy courage, who art deemed worthy of so numerous a foe!

A nearer road leads them through copses, where by a hidden path they make the better speed and travel by a cut through the dense woods. It was a

STATIUS

lecta dolis sedes : gemini procul urbe malignis
 faucibus urgentur colles, quos umbra superni¹
 montis et incurvis claudunt iuga frondea silvis— 500
 insidias natura loco caecamque latendi
 struxit opem—mediasque arte secat aspera rupes
 semita, quam subter campi devexaque latis
 arva iacent spatiis. contra importuna crepido,
 Oedipodioniae domus altis ; hic fera quondam 505
 pallentes erecta genas suffusaque tabo
 lumina, concretis infando sanguine plumis
 reliquias amplexa virum semesaque nudis
 pectoribus stetit ossa premens visuque tremendo²
 conlustrat campos, si quis concurrere dictis 510
 hospes inexplicitis aut comminus ire viator
 audeat et dirae commercia iungere linguae ;
 nec mora, quin acuens exsertos protinus ungues
 liventesque manus strictosque³ in vulnera⁴ dentes
 terribili adplausu circum hospita surgeret ora ; 515
 et latuere doli, donec de rupe cruenta
 heu ! simili deprensa viro, cessantibus alis,
 tristis inexpletam scopulis adfligeret alvum.
 monstrat silva nefas : horrent vicina iuveni
 gramina, damnatis avidum pecus abstinet herbis ; 520
 non Dryadum placet umbra choris, non commodasacris
 Faunorum, diraeque etiam fugere volucres
 prodigiale nemus. tacitis huc gressibus acti

¹ quos superni *Pw* : quas superne *Mueller* : quos superne *Garrod*.

² tremendo *Mueller* : frementi *P* : trementi *ω*.

³ strictosque *Housman* : fractosque *Pw*.

⁴ in vulnera *PN* : in vulnere *ω*.

^a The scene of the ambush is modelled on Virg. *Aen.* xi. 522 *sq.*, but Statius has made it obscure and difficult: "colles urgentur faucibus" seems to be merely an inversion

choice spot for a stratagem : ^a at a distance from the city two hills bear close upon each other with a grudging gulf between ; the shadow of a mountain above and leafy ridges of curving woodland shut them in. Nature has implanted treachery in the place, and the means of hidden ambush. Through the middle of the rocks threads a rough and narrow track, below which lies a plain and a broad expanse of sloping fields. Over against it a threatening cliff rises high, the home of the winged monster of Oedipus ^b ; here aforetime she stood, fierce uplifting her pallid cheeks, her eyes tainted with corruption and her plumes all clotted with hideous gore ; grasping human remains and clutching to her breast half-eaten bones she scanned the plains with awful gaze, should any stranger dare to join in the strife of riddling words, or any traveller confront her and parley with her terrible tongue ; then, without more ado, sharpening forthwith the unsheathed talons of her livid hands and her teeth bared for wounding, she rose with dreadful beating of wings around the faces of the strangers ; nor did any guess her riddle, till caught by a hero that proved her match, with failing wings—ah ! horror !—from the bloody cliff she dashed her insatiate paunch in despair upon the rocks beneath. The wood gives reminder of the dread story : the cattle abhor the neighbouring pastures, and the flock, though greedy, will not touch the fateful herbage ; no Dryad choirs take delight in the shade, it ill beseems the sacred rites of the Fauns, even birds obscene fly far from the abomination of the grove. Speeding hither with silent steps comes the doomed of “*fauces urgentur collibus.*” The “*gemini colles*” recur in vi. 257.

^b The Sphinx.

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deveniunt peritura cohors, hostemque superbum
 admixi iaculis et humi posita arma tenentes 525
 exspectant densaque nemus statione coronant.
 Coeperat umentis Phoebum subtexere palla
 Nox et caeruleam terris infuderat umbram.
 ille propinquabat silvis et ab aggere celso
 scuta virum galeasque videt rutilare comantis, 530
 qua laxant rami nemus adversaque sub umbra
 flammeus aeratis lunae tremor errat in armis.
 obstipuit visis, ibat tamen; horrida tantum
 spicula et inclusum capulo tenus admovet ense,
 ac prior "unde, viri, quidve occultatis in armis?" 535
 non humili terrore rogat. nec reddita¹ contra
 vox, fidamque negant suspecta silentia pacem.
 ecce autem vasto Chthonii contorta lacerto,
 quo duce freta cohors, fuscas intervolat auras
 hasta; sed audenti deus et fortuna recessit. 540
 per tamen Olenii tegimen suis atraque saetis
 terga super laevos umeros vicina cruori
 effugit et viduo iugulum ferit inrita ligno.
 tunc horrere comae sanguisque in corda gelari.
 huc ferus atque illuc animum pallentiaque ira 545
 ora ferens—nec tanta putat sibi bella parari—:
 "ferre gradum contra campoque erumpite aperto!
 quis timor audendi, quae tanta ignavia? solus,
 solus in arma voco." neque in his mora; quos ubi
 plures,
 quam ratus, innumeris videt excursare latebris, 550
 hos prodire² iugis, illos e vallibus imis
 crescere, nec paucos campo, totumque sub armis
 conlucere iter, ut clausas indagine profert
 in medium vox prima feras, quae sola medendi

¹ reddita ω: credita P.

² prodire ω: deire P; cf. vi. 519.

band ; leaning on their spears and with grounded arms held ready, they await their haughty foe, and set strong guard around the wood.

Night had begun to shroud the sunlight in her dewy pall, and had cast over the earth her dark shadow. The hero drew nigh the woods, and from a lofty mound sees the red gleam of warriors' shields and plumed helmets, where the forest boughs leave an open space, and through the opposing shade the flickering moonlight plays upon the brazen armour. Appalled at the sight he yet went onward ; he but draws to him his spiky darts, and the sword sheathed to the hilt. Then first he makes question, in no base terror : " Whence are ye, men, what mean ye lurking thus armed ? " No voice made answer, the suspicious silence holds no sure pledge of peace. Lo ! a spear, hurled by the mighty arm of Chthonius, the leader of the band, flies through the dusky air ; but heaven and fortune lent no aid to his venture. Yet through the covering of Olenian boar and the black bristly hide it sped, over his shoulder, near drawing blood, and widowed of its point strikes harmless on his throat. With hair erect and blood frozen about his heart he looks this way and that, fiercely alert and pale with rage, nor deems so large a troop to be equipped against him : " Come forth against me ! out with you into the open ! why such timorous daring, such arrant cowardice ? alone I challenge you, alone ! " Nor waited they ; but when he saw them, more than he thought, swarming up from countless lurking places, some issuing from the ridges, others in ever-growing numbers coming from the valley-depths, nor few upon the plain, as when the first cry drives the encircled quarry into the open, and the road all lit

turbata ratione via est, petit ardua dirae 555
 Sphingos et abscisis infrangens cautibus uncas
 exsuperat iuga dira manus, scopuloque potitus,
 unde procul tergo metus et via prona nocendi,
 saxum ingens, quod vix plena cervice gementes
 vertere humo valeant murisque¹ inferre iuvenci, 560
 rupibus evellit ; dein toto sanguine nixus
 sustinet, immanem quaerens librare ruinam,
 qualis in adversos Lapithas erexit inanem
 magnanimus cratera Pholus. stupet obvia leto
 turba superstantem atque emissi turbine montis 565
 obruitur ; simul ora virum, simul arma manusque
 fractaque commixto sederunt pectora ferro.
 quattuor hic adeo disiecti mole sub una
 congemuere, fuga tremefactum protinus agmen
 excutitur coeptis. neque enim temnenda iacebant 570
 funera : fulmineus Dorylas, quem regibus ardens
 aequabat virtus, Martisque e semine Theron
 terrigenas confisus avos, nec vertere cuiquam
 frena secundus Halys, sed tunc pedes occubat arvis,
 Pentheumque trahens nondum te Phaedimus aequo,
 Bacche, genus. quorum ut subitis exterrita fatis 576
 agmina turbatam vidit laxare catervam,
 quae duo sola manu gestans adclinia monti
 fixerat, intorquet iacula et fugientibus addit.
 mox in plana libens, nudo ne in pectore tela 580
 inciderent, saltu praeceps defertur et orbem,
 quem procul oppresso vidit Therone volutum,
 corripuit, tergoque et vertice tegmina nota

¹ valeant murisque *Kooten* : murisque valent *Pw*.

^a As he had been Pentheus' foe, when the latter tried to suppress the Bacchanals.

by gleams of armour, he makes for the heights of the dire Sphinx—the only path of safety in his bewilderment—and tearing his nails upon the sheer cliff he scales the dreadful steep and gains mastery of the rock, where he has security behind and a clear downward range of harm. Then he tears away from the rocks a huge boulder, that groaning bullocks scarce with full strength could move from the ground and drag up to the wall; then heaving with all his force he raises and strives to poise the deadly mass: even as great-hearted Pholus lifted the empty mixing-bowl against his Lapith foes. Right in death's path, aghast they view him high aloft; the mountain falls hurtling, and whelms them; at once human limbs and faces, weapons and armour he in mingled run. Four men in all groan mangled beneath that one rock; straightway the host flees panic-stricken, dashed from their enterprise. For no cowards were they who lay there dead. Dorylas of the lightning stroke, in glowing valour a match for princes, and Theron of the seed of Mars, proudly confident in earth-born ancestors, Halys, second to none in swaying at will his reined steed, but fallen on those fields in dismounted fight, and Phaedimus, who drew his birth from Pentheus, and found thee, Bacchus, still his foe.^a But when he saw the band in terror and disordered rout from the sudden fate of these, he hurls two javelins—these alone did he carry, and had leant them against the mountain—and sends them after the fugitives. Soon, lest darts should fall on his exposed breast, of his own will he leapt down swiftly to the level plain, and seized the shield which he saw had rolled away when Theron was crushed down, and with his wonted covering of

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saeptus et hostili propugnans pectora parma
 constitit. inde iterum densi glomerantur in unum 585
 Ogygiae firmantque gradum ; trahit ocius ensem
 Bistonium Tydeus, Mavortia munera magni
 Oeneos, et partes pariter divisus in omnes
 hos obit atque illos ferroque micantia tela
 decutit ; impeditant numero seque ipsa vicissim 590
 arma premunt, nec vis conatibus ulla, sed ipsae
 in socios errare manus et corpora turba
 involvi prolapsa sua ; manet ille ruentes
 angustus telis et inexpugnabilis obstat.
 non aliter—Geticae si fas est credere Phlegrae— 595
 armatum immensus Briareus stetit aethera contra,
 hinc Phoebi pharetras, hinc torvae Pallados anguis,
 inde Pelethroniam praefixa cuspide pinum
 Martis, at hinc lasso mutata¹ Pyracmone temnens
 fulmina, cum toto nequiquam obsessus Olympo 600
 tot queritur cessare manus : non segnior ardet
 huc illuc clipeum obiectans, seque ipse recedens
 circuit, interdum trepidis occurrit et instat
 spicula devellens, clipeo quae plurima toto
 fixa tremunt armantque virum saepe aspera passum
 volnera, sed nullum vitae in secreta receptum 606
 nec mortem sperare valet.² rotat ipse furemtem
 Deilochum, comitemque illi iubet ire sub umbras
 Phegea sublata minitantem bella securi
 Dircaeumque Gyan et Echionium Lycophontem. 610

¹ mutata *Pw* : motata *Lachmann*.

² valet *Pw* : valens, iubet, vacat *edd*.

back and head, and breast defended by his enemy's shield he stood his ground. Then gathering again into one dense body the Ogygians advance : instantly Tydeus draws his Bistonian blade, great Oeneus' warlike gift, and attacking every quarter alike confronts now these, now those, and with his sword strikes down their glittering weapons ; their numbers hinder them, and their arms impede each other ; no strength is in their efforts, but their blows go astray on their own fellows, and falling they are entangled in their own disorder. He awaits their onset, a narrow mark for javelins, and resists them, firm and unshakable. Not otherwise—if Getic Phlegra be worthy credence^a—stood Briareus vast in bulk against embattled heaven, contemning on this hand Phoebus' quiver, on that the serpents of stern Pallas, here Mars' Pelethronian pinewood shaft, with point of iron, and yonder the thunderbolts oft changed for new by weary Pyracmon, and yet complaining, though combated in vain by all Olympus, that so many hands were idle ; no fainter was he in ardour, with shield outheld now this way, now that, himself retiring, doubling round, and ever and anon darting on their irresolute lines and pressing his vantage, while he pulls forth the many javelins that are stuck quivering all about his shield, an armoury for the hero ; and many a bitter wound he suffers, yet none gains entrance to life's secret courses, nor may hope to be deadly. A whirling stroke deals he at raging Deilochus, and bids Phegeus, who threatens attack with axe upraised, go join him beneath the shades, Dircean Gyas too and Lycophontes of Echionian

^a Phlegra in Thrace where the gods fought the giants.

iam trepidi sese quaerunt numerantque, nec idem
caedis amor, tantamque dolent rarescere turbam.

Ecce Chromis Tyrii demissus origine Cadmi—
hunc utero quondam Dryope Phoenissa gravato
rapta repente choris onerisque oblita ferebat, 615
dumque trahit prensis taurum tibi cornibus, Euan,
procidit impulsus nimis conatibus infans—
tunc audax iaculis et capti pelle leonis
pineae nodosae quassabat robora clavae
increpitans: " unusne, viri, tot caedibus unus 620
ibit ovans Argos? vix credet fama reverso!
heus socii, nullaene manus, nulla arma valebunt?
haec regi promissa, Cydon, haec, Lampe, dabamus?"
dum clamat, subit ore cavo Teumesia cornus,
nec prohibent fauces; atque illi voce repleta 625
intercepta natat prorupto in sanguine lingua.
stabat adhuc, donec transmissa morte per artus
labitur immorsaque cadens obmutuit hasta.
vos quoque, Thespiadae, cur infitatus honora
arcuerim¹ fama? fratris moribunda levabat 630
membra solo Periphas—nil indole clarius illa
nec pietate fuit—, laeva marcentia colla
sustentans dextraque latus; singultibus artum
exhaurit thoraca dolor, nec vincla coercent
undantem fletu galeam, cum multa gementi 635
pone gravis curvas perfringit lancea costas.

¹ arcuerim *K*: arguerim *P*ω.

^a i.e., Bacchus.

^b Teumesus was a mountain near Thebes.

stock. And now, losing heart, they seek each other and count their numbers, nor feel the same zest for blood, but grieve that so large a band is growing few.

Lo ! Chromis, of Tyrian Cadmus' seed — him once Phœnician Dryope was carrying in her weighted womb, when revelling bands swept her along forgetful of her burden, and while she was dragging a bull unto thee, O Euhan,^a grasping its horns, the babe fell forth by stress of undue striving—Chromis at that time, in bold confidence of spears and hide of captured lion, brandished a stout club of knotted pinewood, and taunting cried : “ Is one man, ye warriors, one man to go to Argos, boasting of so many slain ? Scarce will he gain credence on his return ! Come, friends, are there none strong in arm or weapon any more ? was this our promise to the king, O Cydon ? was it this, O Lampus ? ” While yet he shouts, the Teumesian^b cornel-shaft enters his open mouth, nor does his throat stay it ; his voice is choked, and the sundered tongue floats in the rush of blood. Awhile he stood, till death poured through his limbs, and he fell, and falling was silent, while his teeth bit upon the spear.

You too, O Thespians, why should I deny you and withhold from honourable renown ? Periphas—none of brighter parts than he, or truer devotion—was raising from the ground his brother's dying frame, his left hand supporting the languid neck, and his right arm about his side ; his breast beneath the cuirass is drained by choking sobs of grief, nor can the fastenings restrain the welling tears that flow from his helm, when amid his deep groans a heavy spear shatters his curved ribs from behind him.

STATIUS

exit et in fratrem, cognataque pectora telo¹
 conserit ; ille oculos etiamnum² in luce natantes
 sistit et aspecta germani morte resolvit.
 at cui vita recens et adhuc in vulnere vires 640
 " hos tibi complexus, haec dent " ait " oscula nati."
 procubuere pares fatiis, miserabile votum
 mortis, et alterna clausurunt lumina dextra.

Protinus idem ultro iaculo parmaque Menoeten
 proterrebat agens trepidis vestigia retro 645
 passibus urgentem, donec defecit iniqua
 lapsus humo, pariterque manus distractus in ambas
 orat et a iugulo nitentem sustinet hastam :
 " parce per has stellis interlabentibus umbras,
 per superos noctemque tuam ; sine, tristia Thebis 650
 nuntius acta feram vulgique per ora paventis
 contempto te rege canam : sic inrita nobis
 tela cadant, nullique tuum penetrabile ferro
 pectus, et optanti victor reveharis amico."
 dixerat. ille nihil vultu mutatus " inanes 655
 perdis " ait " lacrimas, et tu, ni fallor, iniquo
 pollicitus mea colla duci : nunc arma diemque
 proice ; quid timidae sequeris compendia vitae ?
 bella manent." simul haec, et crassum sanguine telum
 iam redit ; ille super dictis infensus amaris 660
 prosequitur victos : " non haec trieterica vobis
 nox patrio de more venit, non orgia Cadmi
 cernitis aut avidas Bacchum scelerare parentes.
 nebridas et fragiles thyrsos portare putastis

¹ telo *P*ω : ferro *Schol.* in. 152 : leto *Nauke.*

² etiamnum ω : et adhuc *P* : tenui iam *Garrod, who cp. Sil. It. ii. 122.*

^a Perhaps Tydeus should be regarded as the subject of "conserit."

^b *i.e.*, in war there is no use for the *craven*.

Issuing from him it pierces his brother also, and with one weapon unites the kindred breasts.^a The other steadies his swimming eyes, where light still lingered, but beholding his kinsman done to death closes them in darkness. But he, to whom life remains and strength as yet despite his wound, cries : " Such an embrace, such kisses may thy sons give thee ! " So fell they, alike in doom, their vow performed alas ! in death, and their eyes closed each by the other's hand.

But Tydeus, straightway attacking, drove Menoetes with shield and spear before him terrified, in hurried backward retreat, till stumbling on the uneven ground he lost his footing ; then prays he with both hands spread wide in supplication, and pushes away the spear that presses at his throat : " Spare me, I beseech thee by these star-inwoven shades, by the gods above, and by this night that favours thee : suffer me to bear to Thebes the sad tidings of thy deeds, and in our king's despite laud thee before our trembling folk ; so may our darts fall fruitless and no steel pierce thy breast, and thou return triumphant to thy friend's desire ! " He finished, but the other with countenance unchanged : " Vain tears thou wastest, and thou, if I mistake not, didst promise my head to the cruel prince. Surrender now thy arms and the light of day ! Why seek the gaming of thy craven life ? 'Tis wars are waiting." ^b While yet he speaks, the spear-point returns thick-clotted with blood. Thereupon with bitter words he pursues the vanquished : " No triennial night or solemn festival are ye keeping now ! no orgies of Cadmus do ye behold, no mothers eager to profane Bacchus ! Did ye think ye were carrying fawnskins and brittle

STATIUS

imbellem ad sonitum maribusque incognita veris 665
 foeda Celaenaea committere proelia buxo ?
 hic aliae caedes, alius furor : ite sub umbras,
 o timidi paucique ! ” haec intonat ; ast tamen illi
 membra negant, lassusque ferit praecordia sanguis.
 iam sublata manus cassos defertur in ictus, 670
 tardatque gradus, clipeum nec sustinet umbo
 mutatum¹ spoliis,² gelidus cadit imber anhelos
 pectore, tum crines ardentiaque ora cruentis
 roribus et taetra morientum aspergine manant :
 ut leo, qui campis longe custode fugato 675
 Massylas depastus oves, ubi sanguine multo
 luxuriata fames cervixque et tabe gravatae
 consedere iubae, mediis in caedibus adest
 aeger, hians victusque cibus ; nec iam amplius irae
 crudescunt : tantum vacuis ferit aera malis 680
 molliaque eiecta delambit vellera lingua.

Ille etiam Thebas spoliis et sanguine plenus
 isset et attonitis sese populoque ducique
 ostentasset ovans, ni tu, Tritonia virgo,
 flagrantem multaue operis caligine plenum 685
 consilio dignata virum : “ sate gente superbi
 Oeneos, absentes cui dudum vincere Thebas
 adnuimus, iam pone modum nimiumque secundis
 parce deis : huic una fides optanda labori
 fortuna satis usus abi.” restabat acerbis 690
 funeribus socioque gregi non sponte superstes

¹ mutatum *P*_ω : nutantem *Lachmann*.

² spoliis *P*_ω : spiculis *conj. Alton*.

^a Where Marsyas the flute-player was defeated by Apollo.

^b Cf. the use of “mutare” in vii. 71. E. H. Alton suggests “spiculis” for “spoliis.” The spoils are apparently regarded as carried on the shield “spiculis” (“darts”) would refer to the missiles sticking in the shield, flung by his enemies.

wands to your unwarlike music ? or were joining the fray that true *men* know nought of at the sound of Celaenae's^a boxwood pipe ? Far other carnage is this, far other madness ! To death with you, cowards and too few ! " So thunders he, but nevertheless his limbs deny him, and the tired blood beats heavy on his heart. His arm is raised, but falls in idle blows, his steps are slow, nor can his elbow bear the weight of the buckler changed^b by the spoils it bears ; the cold sweat pours down his panting breast, and his hair and burning visage stream with gory dew and the foul bespattering of dying bodies : even as a lion, who has driven the shepherd far from the meadows and taken his fill of Massylian sheep, when his hunger is sated in abundance of blood, and his neck and mane are congealed and heavy with corruption, stands faint in the midst of the slaughter, his mouth agape, fordone with gorging ; gone is his savage fury, he only snaps in the air his empty jaws, and with hanging tongue licks them clean of the soft wool.

Rich in spoils and bloodshed, he would even have gone to Thebes, and vaunted his triumph before astonished prince and people, hadst not thou, Tritonian maid,^c deemed worthy of thy counsel the hero, still ardent and all dazed by his deeds : " Scion of proud Oeneus, to whom just now, though far away, we granted victory over Thebes, set now a limit, and strain no more the gods' undue favour ; seek only credence for these toils. Depart, having used thy fortune to the full." There yet remained, an unwilling survivor of his comrades' slaughter, Maeon,

^a Pallas Athene, who was born, according to one legend, from a lake Triton in Libya.

STATIUS

Haemonides—ille haec praeviderat, omina doctus
 aeris¹ et nulla deceptus ab alite—Maeon,
 nec veritus prohibere ducem, sed fata monentem
 privavere fide. vita miserandus inerti 695
 damnatur ; trepido Tydeus immitia mandat :
 “ quisquis es Aonidum, quem crastina munere nostro
 manibus exemptum mediis Aurora videbit,
 haec iubeo perferre duci : cinge aggere portas,
 tela nova, fragiles aevo circum inspice muros, 700
 praecipue stipare viros densasque memento
 multiplicare acies ! fumantem hunc aspice late
 ense meo campum : tales in bella venimus.”

Haec ait, et merita pulchrum tibi, Pallas, honorem
 sanguinea de strage parat, praedamque iacentem 705
 comportat gaudens ingentiaque acta recenset.
 quercus erat tenerae iam longum oblita iuventae
 aggere camporum medio, quam plurimus ambit
 frondibus incurvis et crudo robore cortex.
 huic leves galeas perfossaque vulnere crebro 710
 inserit arma ferens, huic truncos ictibus enses
 subligat et tractas membris spirantibus hastas.
 corpora tunc atque arma simul cumulata superstans
 incipit—oranti nox et iuga longa resultant— :
 “ diva ferox, magni decus ingeniumque parentis, 715
 bellipotens, cui torva genis horrore decoro
 cassis et asperso crudescit sanguine Gorgon,
 nec magis ardentes Mavors hastataque pugnae
 impulerit Bellona tubas, huic adnue sacro,
 seu Pandionio nostras invisere noctes² 720

¹ aeris *P* : aeros *BKN* : heros *DQ* (aeris written over in *Q*).

² noctes *Postgate* : voces *P* : caedes *P* in margin, and *w*.

^a The Acropolis of Athens, where Pandion once reigned.

the son of Haemon ; all this he had foreseen, taught of omens from the air nor deceived by any bird ; nor had he feared to deter his chieftain, but the fates deprived his warnings of belief. His doom is to be pitied as a useless life ; in terror he receives Tydeus' stern behest : " Whosoever of the Aonians thou art, whom saved by my bounty from uttermost darkness to-morrow's Dawn shall yet behold, this message I command thee to carry to thy prince . Raise a mound about your gates, renew your weapons, see to your old and mouldering walls, mind above all to marshall your men in close array and press troop on troop ; look now at this field, everywhere smoking from my sword : even so do we make war ! "

So speaking, he prepares for thee, O Pallas, of thy deserving a fair guerdon from the gory rout, and in joy collects the booty lying there and surveys all his mighty deeds. Upon a hillock in mid-plain there was an oak tree, long time forgetful of its tender youth, with curving boughs and rude strength of trunk and thick encompassing bark. To this he brings and fastens smooth helmets and armour pierced by many a stroke, to this he binds swords that his blows have broken short and spears pulled out from limbs yet breathing. Standing then on the heap of arms and bodies he thus begins, while night and the long ridges make echo to his prayer : " Stern goddess, glory and wisdom of thy mighty sire, powerful in war, thou on whose cheeks the terrible splendour of thy grim casque and blood-besprinkled Gorgon glow fierce with rage,—nor did ever Mavors or Bellona with her battle-spear inspire more furious trumpet-blasts—look favourably on this offering, whether thou comest from Pandion's hill^a to be

STATIUS

monte venis, sive Aonia devertis¹ Itone
 laeta choris, seu tu Libyco Tritone repexas
 lota comas, qua te binūgo temone frementem
 intemeratarum volucer rapit axis equarum :
 nunc tibi fracta virum spolia informisque dicamus 725
 exuvias. at si patriis Parthaonis arvis
 inferar et reduci pateat mihi Martia Pleuron,
 aurea tunc medus urbis tibi templa dicabo
 collibus, Ionias qua despectare procellas
 dulce sit, et flavo tollens ubi vertice pontum 730
 turbidus obiectas Achelous Echinadas exit.
 hic ego maiorum pugnas vultusque tremendos
 magnanimum effingam regum, figamque superbis
 arma tholis, quaeque ipse meo quaesita revexi
 sanguine, quaeque dabis captis, Tritonia, Thebis 735
 centum ibi virgineis votae Calydonides aris
 Actaeas tibi rite faces et ab arbore casta
 nectent purpureas niveo discrimine vittas,
 pervigilemque focis ignem longaeva sacerdos
 nutriet, arcanum numquam spretura² pudorem 740
 tu bellis, tu pace feres de more frequentes
 primitias operum, non indignante Diana."
 dixerat, et dulces iter instaurabat ad Argos.

¹ devertis *P*ω : divertis *DN* : de vertice *conj.* *Garr.*

² spretura *P* : inspectura ω.

^a A mountain in Thessaly, on which there was a temple of Athena. Aonian seems here to mean haunt of Muses, from its usual meaning, Boeotian; the Muses were connected with Thessaly also.

^b See note on l. 684.

THEBAID, II. 721-743

present at my night of triumph, or whether thou dost turn aside from thy glad dances in Aonian Itone,^a or hast washed and combed thy hair again in Libyan^b Triton's waters, whither the fleet axle of thy inviolate mares doth speed thee shouting loud upon thy two-horsed chariot; now do we dedicate to thee the shattered spoils and shapeless armour of heroes. But should I come to my native Parthaonian fields,^c and Martian Pleuron throw wide her gates for my returning, then in the midst of the city's hills will I consecrate to thee a golden temple, where it may be thy pleasure to look down upon Ionian storms, and where turbulent Achelous with yellow head tossed high disturbs the deep, and leaves the barrier of the Echinades behind. Here will I carve ancestral wars and the awful visages of great-hearted kings, and arms will I hang in the proud shrines, arms that I myself bore home and gained at my own blood's cost, and those that thou, Tritonian maid, shalt give when Thebes is taken. A hundred Calydonian maidens there, votaries of thy virgin altars, shall duly twine thee Attic torches, and weave from thy chaste olive-tree purple fillets set off with snow-white wool; an aged priestess shall tend a never-failing fire upon the hearths, and hold in continual reverence thy mystic sanctities. Thou as of old shalt win in war and in peace rich first-fruits of my labours, nor shall Diana be offended." ^d So prayed he, and set out again for pleasant Argos.

^c See note on i. 670.

^d Diana was the most important deity of Aetolia.

LIBER III

At non Aoniae moderator perfidus aulae¹
 nocte sub ancipiti, quamvis umentibus astris
 longus ad auroram superet labor, otia somni
 accipit ; invigilant animo scelerisque parati
 supplicium exercent curae ; tum plurima versat 5
 pessimus in dubiis augur timor. “ ei mihi ” clamat,
 “ unde morae ? ” —nam prona ratus facilemque tot
 armis

Tydea, nec numero virtutem animumque rependit—
 “ num regio diversa viae ? num missus ab Argis
 subsidio globus ? an sceleris data fama per urbes 10
 finitimas ? paucosne, pater Gradive, manuve
 legimus indecores ? at enim fortissimus illic
 et Chromis et Dorylas et nostris turribus aequi
 Thespiadae totos raperent mihi funditus Argos.
 nec tamen ille meis, reor, impenetrabilis armis 15
 aere gerens solidoque satos² adamante lacertos
 venerat ; heu segnes, quorum labor haeret in uno,
 si conserta manus.” vario sic turbidus aestu
 angitur ac sese culpat super omnia, qui non
 orantem in mediis legatum coetibus ense 20
 perculerit foedasque palam satiaverit iras.
 iam pudet incepti, iam paenitet. ac velut ille

¹ aulae ω : orae P.

² satos *Heinsius* : datos Pω.

BOOK III

BUT not to the perfidious lord of the Aonian palace comes the repose of slumber in the twilight hours, although for the dank stars long travail yet remain till dawn ; in his mind care holds vigil and wreaks the penalty for his plotted crime ; then fear, gloomiest of augurs in perplexity, broods deeply. “ Ah me ! ” he cries, “ why this tarrying ? ”—for he had deemed the task a light one, and Tydeus an easy prey to so many warriors, nor weighed his valour and spirit against their numbers—“ Went they by different roads ? Was a company sent from Argos to his succour ? Or has news of the deed spread round the neighbouring cities ? Chose we too few, O father Gradivus, or men unrenowned in action ? But valiant Chromis and Dorylas and the Thespians, a match for these towers of mine, could at my bidding level all Argos with the ground. Nor proof, I ween, against my weapons had he come hither, though his frame were wrought of bronze or solid adamant. For shame, ye cowards, whose efforts fail before a single foe, if indeed ye fought at all ! ” Thus is he tormented by various gusts of passion, and above all blames himself, for that he struck not the envoy with his sword as he spoke in mid assembly, nor openly sated to the full his savage wrath. Now he feels shame of his design, and now repents him of the

STATIUS

fluctibus Ioniis Calabrae datus arbiter alno—
 nec rudis undarum, portus sed linquere amicos
 purior Olenii frustra gradus impulit atri—, 25
 cum fragor hiberni subitus Iovis, omnia mundi
 claustra tonant multusque polos inclinat Orion,
 ipse quidem malit terras pugnatque reverti,
 fert ingens a puppe notus, tunc arte relicta
 ingemit et caecas sequitur iam nescius undas : 30
 talis Agenoreus ductor caeloque morantem
 Luciferum et seros maerentibus increpat ortus.

Ecce sub occiduas versae iam Noctis habenas
 astrorumque obitus, ubi primum maxima Tethys
 impulit Eoo cunctantem Hyperiona ponto, 35
 ima flagellatis, signum lugubre malorum,
 ponderibus trepidavit humus, motusque Cithaeron
 antiquas dedit ire nives ; tunc visa levare
 culmina septemnaeque iugo concurrere portae.
 et prope sunt causae : gelido remeabat Eoo 40
 iratus fatis et tristis morte negata
 Haemonides ; necdum ora patent, dubiusque notari
 signa dabat magnae longe manifesta ruinae
 planctuque et gemitu ; lacrimas nam protinus omnis
 fuderat. haud aliter saltu devertitur orbis 45
 pastor ab agrestum nocturna strage luporum,
 cuius erile pecus silvis inopinus abegit¹
 imber et hibernae ventosa cacumina lunae :

¹ abegit *Po* : adegit *Ellis*.

^a The star Capella, whose rising was at the rainy season ; from Aege, daughter of Olenus (from whom the Aetolian town derived its name), who with her sister Helice suckled Zeus in Crete, and as a reward was turned into a goat and given a place in the sky. The rising of Orion was also at the rainy season. "Brings low the poles" : *i.e.*, when the low clouds make the sky seem to touch the earth.

THEBAID, III. 23-48

shame. And like to the appointed helmsman of a Calabrian barque upon Ionian waters (nor does he lack sea-craft, but the Olenian star^a rising clearer than its wont has beguiled him to leave a friendly haven), when a sudden uproar fills the wintry sky, and all heaven's confines thunder, and Orion in full might brings low the poles—he himself would fain win the land, and struggles to return, but a strong south wind astern bears him on; then, abandoning his craft, he groans, and heedless now follows the blind waters: even so the Agenorean chieftain upbraids Lucifer, yet lingering in the heavens, and the sun, so slow to rise on the distressed.

Lo! beneath the western rein of Night, her course already turned, and the setting stars, so soon as mighty Tethys had driven forth tardy Hyperion from the Eastern sea, the earth with swaying masses trembled to her foundations, drear sign of ills to come, and Cithaeron was stirred and made his ancient snows to move; then were the rooftops seen to rise and the sevenfold gates to meet the mountain-ridges. Nor distant was the cause: wroth with his destiny and sad that death had been denied him, the son of Haemon^b was returning in the cold hour of dawn; not yet is his face plain, but, though indistinct to view, he gave from afar clear signs of dire disaster by wailing and beating his breast; for all his tears had soon been shed. Not otherwise does a bereaved herdsman leave the glade where savage wolves have wrought nocturnal carnage, what time a sudden squall of rain and the windy horns of the winter moon have driven his master's cattle to the woods;

^b Macon, see II. 690.

STATIUS

luce patent caedes ; domino perferre recentes
ipse timet casus, haustaque informis harena 50
questibus implet agros, stabulique silentia magni
odit et amissos longo ciet ordine tauros.

Illum congestae portarum ad limina matres
ut solum videre—nefas !—nulla agmina circum
magnanimosque duces, nil ausae quaerere tollunt 55
clamorem, qualis bello supremus apertis
urbibus, aut pelago iam descendente¹ carina.
ut primum invisi cupido data copia regis :
“ hanc tibi de tanto donat ferus agmine Tydeus
infelicem animam, sive haec sententia divum, 60
seu fortuna fuit, seu, quod pudet ira fateri,
vis invicta viri. vix credo et nuntius : omnes
procubuere, omnes. noctis vaga lumina testor
et socium manes et te, mala protinus ales,
qua redeo, non hanc lacrimis meruisse nec astu 65
crudellem veniam atque inhonoraee munera lucis.
sed mihi iussa deum placitoque ignara moveri
Atropos atque olim non haec data ianua leti
eripuerunt necem. iamque ut mihi prodiga vitae
pectora et extremam nihil horrescentia mortem 70
aspicias : bellum infandum ominibusque negatam
movisti, funeste, aciem ; dum pellere leges,
et consanguineo gestis² regnare superbus
exsule, te series orbarum excisa domorum
planctibus adsiduus, te diro horrore volantes 75
quinquaginta animae circum noctesque diesque

¹ descendente *Pw* : desidente *Hemsius*. *Klotz op. Val. Flacc.* viii. 332. ² gestis *P* : gliscis *w*.

^a “protinus” : lit. “thou immediately, *i e.*, inevitably evil
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THEBAID, III. 49-76

light makes the slaughter manifest ; he fears to take the new tidings to his lord, and pouring unsightly dust upon his head fills the fields with his lamentations, and hates the vast and silent stalls, while he calls aloud the long roll of his lost bulls.

When the mothers crowding to the threshold of the gates beheld him all alone—ah, horror!—no troop around him or valiant chieftains, they venture not to question him, but raise a cry like unto that last cry when cities are flung open to the victors, or when a ship sinks at sea. As soon as audience at his desire was granted by the hated king : “ This hapless life fierce Tydeus doth present thee of all that company, whether the gods have willed it so, or fortune, or, as my anger feels shame to confess, that man’s unconquerable might. Scarce do I believe my own report ; all have perished, all ! Witness night’s wandering fires, my comrades’ ghosts, and thou, evil omen wherewith I must needs return,^a no tears nor wiles won me this cruel grace and dishonoured gift of light. But the gods’ commands snatched destruction from me, and Atropos, whose pleasure knows no denial, and the fate that long since shut against me this door of death. And now that thou mayst see that my heart is prodigal of life, nor shrinks from final doom : ’tis an unholy war thou hast begun, thou man of blood, no omens will approve thy arms ; and while thou endeavourest to banish law, and reign exultant in thy kinsman’s exile, the unceasing plaint of a long line of ruined desolate homes, and fifty spirits hovering night and day shall haunt thee with dire terror ; for I also omen ” ; the very fact of his coming home alive was an evil omen, because it meant that he must kill himself.

STATIUS

adsilient ; neque enim ipse moror.” iam moverat iras
 rex ferus, et tristes ignescunt sanguine vultus.
 inde ultro Phlegyas et non cunctator iniqui
 Labdacus—hos regni ferrum penes—ire manuque 80
 proturbare parant. sed iam nudaverat ensem
 magnanimus vates, et nunc trucidis ora tyranni,
 nunc ferrum aspectans : “ numquam tibi sanguinis
 huius

ius erit aut magno feries imperdita Tydeo
 pectora ; vado equidem exsultans ereptaque fata 85
 insequor et comites feror exspectatus ad umbras
 te superis fratrique—” et iam media orsa loquentis
 absciderat plenum capulo latus ; ille dolori
 pugnat et ingentem nisu duplicatus in ictum
 conruit, extremisque animae singultibus errans 90
 alternus nunc ore venit, nunc vulnere sanguis.
 excussae procerum mentes, turbataque mussant
 concilia ; ast illum coniunx fidique parentes
 servantem vultus et torvum in morte peracta,
 non longum reducem laetati, in tecta ferebant. 95
 sed ducis infandi rabidae non hactenus irae
 stare queunt ; vetat igne rapi, pacemque sepulcri
 impius ignaris nequiquam manibus arcet.

Tu tamen egregius fati mentisque nec umquam—
 sic dignum est—passure situm, qui comminus ausus 100
 vadere contemptum reges, quaque ampla veniret
 libertas, sancire viam : quo carmine dignam,
 quo satis ore tuis famam virtutibus addam,
 augur amate deis ? non te caelestia frustra
 456 .

delay not." Already the fierce king's anger was stirred, and blood lights up his scowling visage. Then Phlegyas and Labdacus, who never dallied at evil work—the realm's armed might was in their keeping—prepare unbidden to go and assault him with violence. But already the great-souled seer had bared his blade, and looking now at the truculent tyrant's face, now at his sword: "Never shalt thou have power upon this blood of mine nor strike the breast that great Tydeus spared; I go, yea exultant, and meet the fate whereof he robbed me; I am borne to the shades of my expectant comrades. As for thee, to the gods and thy brother——" Even as he spoke, the sword was in his side to the hilt, cutting short his words; he fights against the agony, and with a strong effort doubling himself over the mighty blow sinks down, and the blood, sped by the last gaspings of his life, comes forth now from his mouth, now from the wound. The chiefs are stricken with dismay, the councillors mutter in alarm; but he, with visage set and grim in the death his hand accomplished, is borne to his house by his wife and trusty kinsmen, who have had no long joy of his return. But the mad rage of the impious ruler cannot so long be stayed; he forbids that the corpse be consumed with fire, and in vain defiance bars the peace of the tomb from the unwitting shades.

But thou, so noble in thy death and in thy constancy, thou who wilt never suffer oblivion—such is thy due reward—thou who daredst scorn a monarch to his face, and thus hallow the path of ample freedom: by what strain of sufficing utterance can I add due renown to thy high prowess, augur beloved by the gods? Not in vain did Apollo teach thee all his

STATIUS

edocuit lauruque sua dignatus Apollo est,¹ 105
 et nemorum Dodona parens Cirrhaeaeque virgo
 gaudebit² tacito populos suspendere Phoebō.
 nunc quoque Tartareo multum divisus Averno
 Elysias, i, carpe plagas, ubi manibus axis
 inuius Ogygiis nec sontis iniqua tyranni 110
 iussa valent; durant habitus et membra cruentis
 inviolata feris, nudoque sub axe iacentem
 et nemus et tristis volucrum reverentia servat.

At nuptae exanimis puerique aegrique parentes
 moenibus effusi per plana, per avia, passim 115
 quisque suas avidi ad lacrimas miserabile currunt
 certamen, quos densa gradu comitantur euntes
 milia solandi studio; pars visere flagrant
 unius acta viri et tantos in nocte labores.
 fervet iter gemitu et plangoribus arva reclamant. 120
 ut vero infames scopulos silvamque nefandam
 perventum, ceu nulla prius lamenta nec atri
 manassent imbres, sic ore miserrimus uno
 exoritur fragor, aspectuque accensa cruento
 turba furit: stat sanguineo discissus amictu 125
 Luctus atrox caesoque invitat pectore matres.
 scrutantur galeas frigentum inventaque monstrant
 corpora, prociduae super externosque suosque.
 hae pressant in tabe comas, hae lumina signant
 vulneraque alta rigant³ lacrimis, pars spicula dextra 130
 nequiquam parcente trahunt, pars molliter aptant
 brachia trunca loco et cervicibus ora reponunt.

¹ *There is possibly a lacuna after this line.*

² *gaudebit Markland: audebit Pw.*

³ *rigant P: replent w.*

^a *Theban; see n. on l. 173.*

heavenly lore and deem thee worthy of his laurel, and Dodona mother of forests and the Cirrhaean virgin shall rejoice to keep the folk in suspense while Phoebus holds his peace. And now far removed from Tartarean Avernus go thou and roam Elysian regions, where the sky admits not Ogygian ^a souls, nor a guilty despot's cruel behests have power ; thy raiment and thy limbs endure, left inviolate by gory beasts, and the forest and the birds with sorrowing awe watch o'er thee, as thou liest beneath the naked sky.

But fainting wives and children and ailing parents pour forth from the city walls, and by easy road or trackless region everywhere haste in piteous rivalry, eager to gain the object of their own lament, while in their company go crowded thousands zealous to console ; some are burning with desire to see one warrior's achievement and all the labours of the night. The road is loud with lamentation, and the fields re-echo the cries of grief. But when they reached the infamous rocks and the accursed wood, as though none had mourned before, nor bitter tears had flowed, one cry of keenest anguish rises, as from one mouth, and the sight of the carnage drives the folk to madness ; Grief inconsolable stands there with bloody raiment rent and with pierced breast incites the mothers. They search the helmets of the warriors now cold in death, and display the bodies they have found, stretched prostrate alike on stranger and on kinsman. Some steep their hair in the gore, some close up eyes and wash the deep wounds with their tears, others draw out the darts with vainly merciful hand, others gently replace the severed limbs and set the heads again to their shoulders.

STATIUS

At vaga per dumos vacuique in pulvere campi
 magna parens iuvenum, gemini nunc funeris, Ide
 squalentem sublata comam liventiaque ora 135
 ungue premens—nec iam infelix miserandaque, verum
 terror inest lacrimis—, per et arma et corpora passim
 canitiem impexam dira tellure volutans
 quaerit inops natos omni in corpore plangit.
 Thessalis haud alter bello gavis a recenti, 140
 cui gentile nefas hominem renovare canendo,
 multifida attollens antiqua lumina cedro
 nocte subit campos versatque in sanguine functum
 vulgus et explorat manes, cui plurima busto
 imperet ad superos : animarum maesta queruntur 145
 concilia, et nigri pater indignatur Avernī.

Illi in secessu pariter sub rupe iacebant
 felices, quos una dies, manus abstulit una,
 pervia vulneribus media trabe pectora nexi.
 ut vidit lacrimisque oculi patuere profusis : 150
 “ hosne ego complexus genetrix, haec oscula, nati,
 vestra tuor ? sic vos extremo in fine ligavit
 ingenium crudele necis ? quae vulnera tractem,
 quae prius ora premam ? vosne illa potentia matris,
 vos uteri fortuna mei, qua tangere divos 155
 rebar et Ogygias titulis anteire parentes ?
 at quanto melius dextraque in sorte iugatae,
 quis steriles thalami nulloque ululata dolore
 respexit Lucina domum ! mihi quippe malorum

^a A Theban mother, not elsewhere mentioned : the names of her sons are not given.

^b *i.e.*, of being disturbed by the witch

But Ide^a wanders through the thickets and on the open dusty plain—Ide, mighty mother of twin heroes, twinned now in death—with dishevelled hair all flowing, and nails piercing deep her livid cheeks; no more unhappy or pitiable is she, but terrible in her grief; and everywhere by weapons and by bodies she strews on the dire ground her white uncombed locks, and in helpless plight seeks her sons and over every corpse makes lamentation. Not otherwise does the Thessalian witch, whose race's hideous art it is to charm back men to life by spell of song, rejoice in warfare lately ended, and holding high her faggot-torch of ancient cedar nightly haunt the fields, while she turns the slain folk over in their blood, and tries the dead, to see to which corpse she shall give many a message for the world above; the gloomy councils of the shades complain,^b and black Avernus' sire waxes indignant.

Together they were lying, apart from the rest beneath a rock, fortunate, that one day, one hand had wrought their doom; their wound-pierced breasts are knitted fast by the uniting spear. She saw them, and her eyes made passage for the streaming tears: "Is it so ye embrace, my sons, is it so ye kiss, before your mother's eyes? Is it so that Death's cruel cunning at the final hour hath bound you? Which wounds shall I first touch, which face caress? Are ye those strong defenders of your mother, that glory of my womb, whereby I thought to touch the gods, and surpass the mothers of Ogygia in renown? How much better far, how happy in their union are they whose chamber is barren, whose house Lucina never visited at the cry of travail! Nay, to me my labour hath brought but sorrow.

causa labor ; sed nec bellorum in luce patenti 160
 conspicui fatis aeternaque gentibus ausi
 quaesistis miserae vulnus memorabile matri,
 sed mortem obscuram numerandaque¹ funera passi,
 heu quantus furto cruor et sine laude iacetis !
 quin ego non dextras miseris complexibus ausim 165
 dividere et tanti consortia rumpere leti :
 ite diu fratres indiscretique supremis
 ignibus et caros urna confundite manes ! ”

Nec minus interea digesta strage suorum
 hic Cthonium coniunx, hic mater Penthea clamat 170
 Astyoche, puerique rudes, tua, Phaedime, proles,
 amissum didicere patrem, Marpessaque pactum
 Phyllea, sanguineumque lavant Acamanta sorores.
 tunc ferro retegunt silvas collisque propinqui
 annosum truncant apicem, qui conscius actis 175
 noctis et inspexit gemitus ; ibi grandior aevo
 ante rogos, dum quisque suo nequit igne revelli,
 concilium infaustum dictis mulcebat Aletes :
 “ saepe quidem infelix varioque exercita ludo
 fatorum gens nostra fuit,² Sidonius ex quo 180
 hospes in Aonios iecit sata ferrea sulcos,
 unde novi fetus et formidata colonis
 arva suis. sed nec veteris cum regia Cadmi
 fulmineum in cinerem monitis Iunonis iniquae
 consedit, neque funerea cum laude potitus 185
 infelix Athamas trepido de monte veniret,

¹ numeranda ω: numerosa P: numerosa ubi funera
Garrod.

² fuit P (ruit *written over*) : ruit ω.

^a Lit. “suffering deaths which were (only) for the count-
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Nor in the broad glare of battle met ye a glorious fate, nor daring deeds ever famous among men did ye seek a death whose story might be told to your unhappy mother, but obscure ye fell and counting but in the tale of deaths ^a; alas! in what streams of blood ye lie, unnoticed and unpraised! I dare not indeed sunder your poor embracing arms, or break the union of so noble a death; go, then, and long abide true brothers, unparted by the final flames, and mingle your loved ashes in the urn!"

No less in the meantime do the rest make lament, each over their own slain: here doth his wife mourn Chthonius, there Astyoche his mother grieves over Pentheus, and tender lads, thy offspring, Phaedimus, have learnt their father's fate; Marpessa laves Phylleus, her betrothed, and his sisters cleanse the blood-stained Acamas. Then with the iron they lay bare the woods, and lop the antique crown of the neighbouring hill, that knew the secret of the night's doings and watched the agony; there before the funeral piles, while each clings to the fire he himself has kindled, aged Aletes speaks consoling words to the unhappy company: "Often indeed has our race known sorrow and been racked by the heartless sport of Fate, ay, ever since the Sidonian wanderer cast the iron seed upon the furrows of Aonia, whence came strange growing and fear to the husbandmen of their own fields. But neither when old Cadmus' palace sank into fiery ashes at cruel Juno's bidding,^b nor when hapless Athamas,^c gaining a deadly fame, came down from the astonished mount, haling, alas! ing," *numeranda*, not *memoranda*; they were only two more in the list of dead.

^b See note on II. 293.

^c See n. on i. 13.

semianimem heu laeto referens clamore Learchum,
 hic gemitus Thebis, nec tempore clarius illo
 Phoenissae sonuere domus, cum lassa furorem
 vicit et ad comitum lacrimas expavit Agave. 190
 una dies similis fato specieque malorum
 aequa fuit, qua magniloquos luit impia flatus
 Tantalus, innumeris cum circumfusa ruinis
 corpora tot raperet terra, tot quaereret ignes.
 talis erat vulgi status, et sic urbe relicta 195
 primaevique senesque et longo examine matres
 invidiam planxere deis miseroque tumultu
 bina per ingentes stipabant funera portas.
 meque ipsum memini—necdum apta laboribus aetas—
 flesse tamen gemituque meos aequasse parentes. 200
 illa tamen superi. nec quod tibi, Delia, castos
 prolapsum fontes specula temerare profana
 heu dominum insani nihil agnovere Molossi,
 deflerim magis, aut verso quod sanguine fluxit
 in subitos regina lacus : sic dura Sororum 205
 pensa dabant visumque Iovi. nunc regis iniqui
 ob noxam immeritos patriae tot culmina cives
 exuimus, nec adhuc calcati foederis Argos
 fama subit, et iam bellorum extrema dolemus.
 quantus equis quantusque viris in pulvere crasso 210
 sudor ! io quanti crudele rubebitis amnes !

^a Agave slew her son Pentheus unwittingly, under the influence of Bacchic frenzy.

^b Niobe, daughter of Tantalus and wife of Amphion, king of Thebes. She boasted of her seven sons and seven daughters, and was punished by their being all slain by Apollo and Artemis.

with exultant cries Learchus, nigh a corpse, hath such woe come to Thebes ; nor louder then did Phoenician homes re-echo, when weary Agave overcame her frenzy, and trembled at her comrades' tears ^a One day alone matched this in doom, and brought disaster in like shape, that day when the impious Tantalid ^b atoned her presumptuous boasting, when she caught up all those bodies whose countless ruin strewed the earth around her, and sought for each its funeral flames. As great then was our people's woe, and even so from forth the city went young and old and mothers flocking, and cried out their hearts' bitterness against heaven, and in crowding misery thronged the double pyre at each mighty gate. I too, so I remember, though my years were tender, wept nevertheless, and equalled my parents' tears. Yet those ills were heaven-sent ; nor would I more lament that the mad Molossian hounds knew not their master, when he crept forth from his unholy spying-place to profane, O Delia, thy chaste fountains, nor that the queen, her blood transformed, melted suddenly into a lake.^c Such was the hard assignment of the Sisters, and so Jove willed it. But now by a cruel monarch's crime have we lost these guiltless citizens, so many chiefs of our land ; and not yet hath the fame of the spurned covenant reached Argos, and already we suffer the extremities of war. Alas ! what sweat of toil in the thick dust of battle is in store for men and steeds ! alas ! how high will ye flow, ye rivers, blushing your cruel red !

^a The references are to Actaeon and Dirce ; the latter, the wife of Lycus, a Theban prince, was changed into the fountain of that name.

STATIUS

viderit haec bello viridis manus : ast ego doner
 dum licet igne meo terraque insternar avita ! ”
 haec senior, multumque nefas Eteoclis acervat
 crudelem infandumque vocans poenasque daturum.
 unde ea libertas ? iuxta illi finis et aetas 216
 tota¹ retro, seraeque decus velit addere morti.

Haec sator astrorum iamdudum e vertice mundi
 prospectans primoque imbutas sanguine gentes
 Gradivum acciri propere iubet. ille furentes 220
 Bistonas et Geticas populatus caedibus urbes
 turbidus aetherias currus urgebat ad arces,
 fulmine cristatum galeae iubar armaque in auro
 tristia, terrificis monstrorum animata figuris,
 incutiens : tonat axe polus clipeique cruenta 225
 lux rubet, et solem longe ferit aemulus orbis.
 hunc ubi Sarmaticos etiamnum efflare labores
 Iuppiter et tota perfusum pectora belli
 tempestate videt : “ talis mihi, nate, per Argos,
 talis abi, sic ense madens, hac nubilus ira. 230
 exturbent resides frenos et cuncta² perosi
 te cupiant, tibi praecipites animasque manusque
 devoveant, rape cunctantes et foedera turba,
 cui dedimus, tibi fas ipsos incendere bello
 caelicolas pacemque meam. iam semina pugnae 235
 ipse dedi : remeat portans immania Tydeus
 ausa, ducis scelus et, turpis primordia belli,

¹ tota *Pω* : torta *Garrod*, from *MS.* at *Peterhouse*.

² cuncta *Pω* : vincla *Bentley* : tuta *Garrod*.

All this will our youth behold, yet green to war ; as for me, may I be granted, while it may be, my own funeral pyre, and be laid in my ancestral earth ! ” So spoke the aged man, and heaped high the crimes of Eteocles, calling him cruel and abominable and doomed to punishment. Whence came this freedom of speech ? his end was near, and all his life behind him, and he would fain add glory to a late-found death.

All this the creator of the stars had long observed from the summit of the world, and seen the peoples stained by the first bloodshed ; then bids he Gradivus straight be called. He having laid waste with slaughter the wild Bistonian folk and Getic towns was driving his chariot in hot haste toward the ethereal heights, flashing the splendour of his lightning-crested helm and angry golden armour, alive with monstrous shapes of terror ; heaven’s vault roars thunderous, his shield glows with blood-red light and its emulous orb strikes on the sun from far. When Jupiter saw that he yet panted with his Sarmatic toils, and that all the tempest of war yet swayed his breast. “ Even as thou art, my son, even so hie thee through Argos, with thy sword thus dripping, in such a cloud of wrath. Let them cast off the sloth that curbs them, let them hate all and desire but thee, let them in frenzy vow to thee their lives and hands ; sweep away the doubting, confound all treaties ; thou mayst consume in war—to thee have I granted it—even gods themselves, ay, and the peace of Jove. Already I have sown the seeds of battle : Tydeus, as he returns, brings news of monstrous outrages, the monarch’s crime, the first beginnings of base warfare, the ambush and the

STATIUS

insidias fraudesque, suis quas ultus in armis.
 adde fidem. vos o superi, meus ordine sanguis,
 ne pugnare odiis, neu me temptare precando 240
 certetis; sic Fata mihi nigraeque Sororum
 iuravere¹ colus: manet haec ab origine mundi
 fixa dies bello, populi que in proelia nati.
 quodni me veterum poenas sancire malorum
 gentibus et diros sinitis punire nepotes— 245
 arcem hanc aeternam, gentis² sacraria nostrae,
 testor et Elysios, etiam mihi numina, fontes—,
 ipse manu Thebas correpta que moenia fundo
 excutiam versaque solo super Inacha tecta
 effundam turres aut stagna in caerula verram³ 250
 umbre superiecto, licet ipsa in turbine rerum
 Iuno suos colles templumque amplexa laboret.”
 dixit, et attoniti iussis. mortalia credas
 pectora, sic cuncti vocemque animosque tenebant.⁴
 non secus ac longa ventorum pace solutum 255
 aequor et imbelli recubant ubi litora somno,
 silvarumque comas et abacto flamine nubes
 mulcet iners aestas; tunc stagna lacusque sonori
 detumuere, tacent exusti solibus amnes.
 Gaudet ovans iussis et adhuc temone calenti 260
 fervidus in laevum torsit Gradivus habenas.
 iamque iter extremum caelique abrupta tenebat,

¹ iuravere *P*ω: lustravere *Servius* ad Aen. viii. 409.

² gentis *Lachmann*, who cp. *Silv.* v. 1. 240 aeternae qui sacraria genti condidit: mentis *P*ω, and *Garrod*, who cp. *Silv.* ii. 2. 131 celsa tu mentis ab arce

³ verram *P*: vertam ω.

⁴ *The punctuation is Garrod's former edd. made mortalia . . . pectora a parenthesis: Lachmann read di for sic.*

^a *mentis*, the mss. reading here, can hardly be right, though “celsa tu mentis ab arce” (*Silv.* ii. 2. 131) is quoted

treachery, which with his own weapons he avenged. Add thou credence to his tale. And you, ye gods, scions of my blood, indulge no angry strife, no rivalry to win me by entreaties; thus have the Fates sworn to me, and the dark spindles of the Sisters: this day abides from the beginning of the world ordained for war, these peoples are destined to battle from their birth. But it ye suffer me not to exact solemn vengeance for their sins of old, and to punish their dreadful progeny—I call to witness these everlasting heights, our race's holy shrine,^a and the Elysian streams that even I hold sacred—with my own arm will I destroy Thebes and shatter her walls to their foundations, and cast out upon the Inachian dwellings her uprooted towers, or else pour down my rain upon them and sweep them into the blue depths, ay, though Juno's self should embrace her hills and temple, and toil amid the chaos."

He spoke, and they were spellbound at his commands. Mortal in mind thou hadst deemed them, so curbed they one and all their voice and spirit. Even as when a long truce of winds has calmed the sea, and the shores lie wrapt in peaceful slumber, indolent summer sets her spell upon forest leaves and clouds, and drives the breezes far; then on lakes and sounding meres the swelling waters sink to rest, and rivers fall silent 'neath the sun's scorching rays.

Exulting with joy at these commands, and glowing yet with his chariot's burning heat, Gradivus leftward swung the reins; soon he was gaining his journey's end and the steep of heaven, when Venus in its defence. "Elysian streams". *i.e.*, Styx, a river of the underworld.

STATIUS

cum Venus ante ipsos nulla formidine gressum
 figit equos ; cessere retro iamiamque rigentes
 suppliciter posuere rubas. tunc pectora summo 265
 adclinata iugo voltumque obliqua madentem
 incipit—interea dominae vestigia iuxta
 spumantem proni mandunt adamanta iugales— :
 “ bella etiam in Thebas, socer o pulcherrime, bella
 ipse paras ferroque tuos abolere nepotes ? 270
 nec genus Harmoniae nec te conubia caelo
 festa nec hae quicquam lacrimae, furibunde, moran-
 tur ?
 criminis haec merces ? hoc fama pudorque relictus,
 hoc mihi Lemniacae de te meruere catenae ?
 perge libens ; at non eadem Volcania nobis 275
 obsequia, et laesi servit tamen ira mariti !
 illum ego perpetuis mihi desudare caminis
 si iubeam vigilesque operi transmittere noctes,
 gaudeat ornatusque novos ipsique laboret
 arma tibi ; tu—sed scopulos et aena precando 280
 flectere corda paro ; solum hoc tamen anxia, solum
 obtestor, quid me Tyrio sociare marito
 progeniem caram infaustisque dabas hymenaeis ?
 dum fore praeclaros armis et vivida rebus
 pectora vipereo Tyrios de sanguine iactas 285
 demissumque Iovis serie genus. a ! mea quanto
 Sithonia mallet nupsisset virgo sub Arcto
 trans Borean Thracasque tuos. indigna parumne
 pertulimus, divae Veneris quod filia longum
 reptat et Illyricas deiecatat virus in herbas ? 290

^a *i.e.*, the people of Thebes, which was founded by Cadmus, whose wife she was.

unafraid stood in his horses' very path ; backward they gave place, and e'en now have drooped their thick manes in suppliant wise to earth. Then leaning her bosom on the yoke, and with sidelong tearful glance she begins—meanwhile bowed at their mistress' feet the horses champ the foaming steel : “ War even against Thebes, O noble father, war dost thou thyself prepare, and the sword's destruction for all thy race ? And does not Harmonia's offspring,^a nor heaven's festal day of wedlock, nor these tears of mine, thou madman, give thee one moment's pause ? Is this thy reward for my misdoing ? Is this the guerdon that the Lemnian chains and scandal's tongue and loss of honour have won for me at thy hands ? Proceed then as thou wilt ; far different service does Vulcan pay me, and even an injured husband's wrath yet does my bidding. If I were to bid him sweat in endless toil of furnaces and pass unsleeping nights of labour, he would rejoice and work at arms and at new accoutrements, yea, even for thee ! Thou—but I essay to move rocks and a heart of bronze by praying !—yet this sole request, this only do I make in anxious fear : why didst thou have me join our beloved daughter to a Tyrian husband in ill-omened wedlock ?^b And boast the while that the Tyrians, of dragon stock and direct lineage of Jove, would win renown in arms and show hearts keen and alive for action ? Ah ! would rather our maiden had married beneath the Sithonian pole, beyond Boreas and thy Thracians ! Have I not suffered wrong enough, that my daughter crawls her length upon the ground, and spews poison on the Illyrian grass ?

^b *i.e.*, Harmonia, wife of Cadmus, son of Agenor, king of Tyre.

STATIUS

nunc gentem immeritam—" lacrimas non pertulit
ultra

Bellipotens, hastam laeva transumit et alto,
haud mora, desiluit curru, clipeoque receptam
laedit in amplexu dictisque ita mulcet amicis :

" O mihi bellorum requies et sacra voluptas 295
unaque pax animo ! soli cui tanta potestas

divorumque hominumque meis occurrere telis
impune et media quamvis in caede frementes
hos adsistere equos, hunc ensem avellere dextrae.

nec mihi Sidonii genialia foedera Cadmi 300

nec tua cara fides—ne falsa incessere gaude !—

exciderunt : prius in patruī deus infera mergar

stagna et pallentes agar exarmatus ad umbras.

sed nunc fatorum monitus mentemque supremi

iussus obire patris—neque enim Vulcania tali 305

imperio manus apta legi—, quo pectore contra

ire Iovem dictasque parem contemnere leges,

cui modo—pro vires !—terras caelumque fretumque

adtremerē oranti tantosque ex ordine vidi

delituisse deos ? sed ne mihi corde supremos 310

concipe, cara, metus ! quando haec mutare potestas

nulla datur—cum iam Tyriis sub moenibus ambae

bellabunt gentes, adero et socia arma iuvabo.

tunc me sanguineo late defervere¹ campo

res super Argolicas haud sic delecta videbis ; 315

hoc mihi ius, nec fata vetant." sic orsus aperto

flagrantes immisit equos. non ocius alti

in terras cadit ira Iovis, si quando nivalem

Othryn et Arctoae gelidum caput institit Ossae

armavitque in nube manum : volat ignea moles 320

¹ late defervere *Pw* : bellantem fervere *conj.* Garrod.

but now her innocent race—" no longer could the Lord of war endure her tears, but changed his spear to his left hand, and in a moment leapt from the lofty car, and clasping her to his shield hurt her in his embrace, and with loving words thus soothes her : " O thou who art my repose from battle, my sacred joy and all the peace my heart doth know : thou who alone of gods and men canst face my arms unpunished, and check even in mid-slaughter my neighing steeds, and tear this sword from my right hand ! neither the marriage-bond of Sidonian Cadmus have I forgotten, nor thy dear loyalty—rejoice not in false accusing !—may I be rather plunged, god though I be, in my uncle's infernal lakes, and be hunted weaponless to the pale shades ! But now 'tis the Fates' behests and the high Father's purpose I am bid perform—no fit choice were Vulcan's arm for such an errand !—and how can I dare face Jove or go about to spurn his spoken decree, Jove, at whose word—such power is his !—I saw of late earth and sky and ocean tremble, and mighty gods, one and all, seek hiding ? But, dear one, let not thy heart be sore afraid, I pray thee—these things no power can change ; and when soon beneath the Tyrian walls both races are making war, I will be present and help our kindred arms. Then with happier mien shalt thou behold me descending in fury upon the Argive fortunes far and wide over the bloody plain ; this is my right, nor do the fates forbid it." So speaking, he drove on through the open air his flaming steeds. No swifter falls upon the earth the anger of Jove, whene'er he stands on snowy Othrys or the cold peak of northern Ossa, and plucks a weapon from the cloud ; fast flies the

STATIUS

saeva dei mandata ferens, caelumque trisulca
 territat omne coma iamdudum aut ditibus agris
 signa dare aut ponto miseros involvere nautas.

Iamque remensus iter fesso Danaeia Tydeus
 arva gradu viridisque legit devexa Prosymnae 325
 terribilis visu : stant fulti pulvere crines,
 squalidus ex umeris cadit alta in vulnera sudor,
 insomnesque oculos rubor excitat, oraue retro
 solvit¹ anhela sitis ; mens altum spirat honorem
 conscia factorum. sic nota in pascua taurus 330
 bellator redit, adverso cui colla suoque
 sanguine proscissisque natant palearibus armi ;
 tunc quoque lassa tumet virtus multumque superbit
 pectore despecto² ; vacua iacet hostis harena
 turpe gemens crudosque vetat sentire labores. 335
 talis erat ; medias etiam non destitit urbes,
 quidquid et Asopon veteresque interiacet Argos,
 inflammare odiis, multumque et ubique retexens
 legatum sese Graia de gente petendis
 isse³ super regnis profugi Polynicis, at inde 340
 vim, noctem ; scelus, arma, dolos, ea foedera passum
 regis Echionii ; fratri sua iura negari.
 prona fides populis ; deus omnia credere suadet
 Armipotens, geminatque acceptos fama pavores.

Utque introgressus portas—et forte verendus 345
 concilio pater ipse duces cogeabat Adrastus—

¹ solvit *P* : sorbet ω .

² pectore despecto *P* ω : despecto pecore, at *conj. Garrod* :
 despectus *Baehrens*.

³ isse *PDN* : esse ω (*cf.* i. 475).

^a Literally " and terrifies all the heaven so that it gives signs " ; the infinitive is best explained as following " territat " by analogy with " cogit " ; " territat," therefore, is equivalent
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fiery bolt, bearing the god's stern command, and all heaven, affrighted at its threefold trail, soon threatens with ominous signs the fruitful fields or overwhelms unhappy sailors in the deep.^a

And now Tydeus on his homeward way passes with weary step through the Danaan lands and down the slopes of green Prosymna ; terrible is he to behold : his hair stands thick with dust, from his shoulders filthy sweat drips into his deep wounds, his sleepless eyes are raw and red, and gasping thirst has made his face drawn and sunken ; but his spirit, conscious of his deeds, breathes lofty pride. So does a warrior bull return to his well-known pastures, with neck and shoulders and torn dewlaps streaming with his foe's blood and his own ; then too doth weary valour swell high, filled with pride, as he looks down upon his breast ; his enemy lies on the deserted sand, groaning, dishonoured, and forbids him to feel his cruel pains. Such was he, nor failed he to inflame with hatred the midway towns, all that lie between Asopos and ancient Argos, renewing everywhere and oft the tale, how he had gone on embassy from a Grecian people to claim the realm of exiled Polynices, but had endured violence, night crime, arms, treachery, —such was the Echioman monarch's plighted faith ; to his brother he denied his due rights. The folk are swift to believe him ; the Lord of Arms inclines them to credit all, and, once welcomed, Rumour redoubles fear.

When he entered within the gates—and it happened that the revered sire Adrastus was himself summoning his chiefs to council—he appears all to “*terrore cogit.*” Such uses of analogy are very characteristic of Statius.

STATIUS

improvisus adest, iam illinc a postibus aulae
 vociferans : " arma, arma viri, tuque optime Lernaee
 ductor, magnanimum si quis tibi sanguis avorum,
 arma para ! nusquam pietas, non gentibus aequum 350
 fas aut cura¹ Iovis ; melius legatus adissem
 Sauromatas rabidos² servatoremque cruentum
 Bebrycii nemoris. nec iussa incuso pigetve
 officii : iuvat isse, iuvat, Thebasque nocentes
 explorasse manu ; bello me, credite, bello, 355
 ceu turrem validam aut artam compagibus urbem,
 delecti insidiis instructique omnibus armis
 nocte doloque viri nudum ignarumque locorum
 nequiquam clausere ; iacent in sanguine mixti 359
 ante urbem vacuam. nunc o, nunc tempus in hostes,
 dum trepidi exsanguisque metu, dum funera portant,
 nunc, socer, haec dum non³ manus excidit ; ipse ego
 fessus
 quinquaginta illis heroum immanibus umbris
 vulneraque ista ferens putri insiccata cruore
 protinus ire peto ! " trepidi de sedibus adstant 365
 Inachidae, cunctisque prior Cadmeius heros
 accurrit vultum deiectus et " o ego divis
 invisus vitaeque nocens haec vulnera cerno
 integer ! hosne mihi reditus, germane, parabas ?
 in me haec tela mei⁴ ! pro vitae foeda cupido ! 370
¹ aut cura ω : auctura P : aut iura L and *Garrod*.
² rabidos *Wakefield* (feroces *Schol. of D*) : avidos $P\omega$.
³ nunc socer haec dum non P : dum capulo nondum ω
 (nondum haec *conj. Garrod*). ⁴ mei P : dabas ω .

^a As often, for Argos.

^b Where Amycus, king of the Bebrycii, fought all strangers

unexpectedly, and from the very portals of the palace cries aloud : " To arms, to arms, ye men, and thou, most worthy ruler of Lerna," if thou hast the blood of thy brave ancestors, to arms ! Natural ties, justice, and reverence for Jove have perished from the world ! Better had I gone an envoy to the wild Sauromatae, or the blood-stained warden of the Bebrycian grove.^b I blame not thy commands, nor regret my errand ; glad am I that I went, yea glad, and that my hand has probed the guilt of Thebes. 'Twas war, believe me, war ! like a strong tower or city stoutly fortified was I beset, all defenceless and ignorant of my path, treacherously at night, by a picked ambuscade armed to the teeth, ay, but in vain !—they lie there in their own blood, before a city desolated ! Now, now is the time to march against the foe, while they are struck by panic and and pale with fear, while they are bringing in the corpses, now, sire, while this right arm is not yet forgotten.^c I myself even, wearied by the slaughter of those fifty warriors, and bearing the wounds ye see still running with foul gore, beg to set forth upon the instant ! " In alarm the sons of Inachus start up from their seats, and before them all the Cadmean hero runs forward with downcast countenance : " Ah ! hated of the gods and guilty that I am ! do I see these wounds, myself unharmed ? Is this, then, the return thou hadst in store for me, brother ? Am I the mark, then, of my kinsman's weapons ? Ah ! shame—and slew those whom he defeated, until he was himself slain by Pollux.

^b "excidit," sc. "memoria" as in l. 302. It is easier to suppose that this was not understood and "capulo" therefore inserted and "nunc socer" dropped than to account for the latter replacing "capulo."

STATIUS

infelix, fratri facinus tam grande negavi.
 et nunc vestra quidem maneant in pace quieta¹
 moenia, nec vobis tanti sim causa tumultus
 hospes adhuc. scio—nec me adeo res dextra levavit—,
 quam durum natis, thalamo quam triste revelli, 375
 quam patria ; non me ullius domus anxia culpet
 respectentve truces obliquo lumine matres.
 ibo libens certusque mori, licet optima coniunx
 auditusque iterum revocet socer ; hunc ego Thebis,
 hunc, germane, tibi iugulum et tibi, maxime Tydeu,
 debeo.” sic variis pertemptat pectora dictis 381
 obliquatque preces. commotae questibus irae
 et mixtus lacrimis caluit dolor ; omnibus ultro
 non iuvenum modo, sed gelidis et inertibus aevo
 pectoribus mens una subit, viduare penates, 385
 finitimas adhibere manus, iamque ire. sed altus
 consiliis pater imperiique haud flectere molem
 inscius : “ ista quidem superis curaeque medenda²
 linquite, quaeso, meae, nec te germanus inulto
 sceptrā geret, neque nos avidi promittere bellum. 390
 at nunc egregium tantoque in sanguine ovanter
 excipite Oeniden, animosaeque pectora laxet
 sera quies : nobis dolor haud rationis egebit.”

Turbati extemplo comites et pallida coniunx
 Tydea circum omnes fessum bellicae viaeque 395
 stipantur. laetus mediis in sedibus aulae
 constitit, ingentique exceptus terga columna,
 vulnera dum lymphis Epidaurius eluit Idmon,

¹ quietā *P* : serena *ω*.

² medenda *ω* : medentia *P* : medenti *Garrod*.

^a For “auditus” with noun, simply meaning “the voice of,” see ii. 54, ii. 455, v. 94. The word has been unnecessarily emended.

'ful lust of life ! Unhappy I, to have spared my brother so great a crime ! Let now your walls at least abide in tranquil peace ; let me not, who am still your guest, bring on you such tumult. I know—so hardly has fate dealt with me—how cruel it is, how sad to be torn from children, wife, and country ; let no one's anxious home reproach me, nor mothers fling at me sidelong glances ! Gladly will I go, and resolved to die, ay, though my loyal spouse call me back, and her father's voice ^a once more plead with me. This life of mine I owe to Thebes, to thee, O brother, and to thee, great Tydeus ! ” Thus with varied speech he tries their hearts and makes dissembling prayer. His complaints stir their wrath, and they wax hot in tearful indignation ; spontaneously in every heart, not only of the young, but of those whom age has made cold and slow to action, one purpose rises, to leave desolate their homes, to bring in neighbouring bands, and then to march. But the deep-counselling sire, well-versed in the government of a mighty realm : “ Leave that, I pray you, to the gods and to my wisdom to set aright ; thy brother shall not reign unpunished, nor are we eager to promise war. But for the present receive this noble son of Oeneus, who comes in triumph from such bloodshed, and let long-sought repose calm his warlike spirit. For our part, grief shall not lack its share of reason.”

Straightway his comrades and anxious wife bestir themselves in haste, all thronging round the way-worn and battle-weary Tydeus. Joyfully in mid-hall he takes his seat, and leans his back against a huge pillar, while Epidaurian Idmon cleanses his wounds

STATIUS

nunc velox ferro, nunc ille tepentibus¹ herbis
 mitior, ipse alta seductus mente renarrat 400
 principia irarum, quaeque orsus uterque vicissim,
 quis locus insidiis, tacito quae tempora bello,
 qui contra quantique duces, ubi maximus illi
 sudor, et indicio servatum Maeona tristi
 exponit. cui fida manus proceresque socerque 405
 adstupet oranti, Tyriusque incenditur exsul.

Solverat Hesperii devexo margine ponti
 flagrantem Sol pronus equos rutilamque lavabat
 Oceani sub fonte comam, cui turba profundi
 Nereos et rapidis adcurrunt passibus Horae, 410
 frenaque et auratae textum sublime coronae
 deripiunt, laxant calidis² umentia loris
 pectora ; pars meritos vertunt ad molle iugales
 gramen et erecto currum temone supinant.
 nox subiit curasque hominum motusque ferarum 415
 composuit nigroque polòs involvit amictu,
 illa quidem cunctis, sed non tibi mitis, Adraste,
 Labdacioque duci : nam Tydea largus habebat
 perfusum magna virtutis imagine somnus.
 et iam noctivagas inter deus armifer umbras 420
 desuper Arcadiae fines Nemeaeaque rura
 Taenariumque cacumen Apollineasque Therapnas
 armorum tonitru ferit et trepidantia corda
 implet amore sui. comunt Furor Iraque cristas,
 frena ministrat equis Pavor armiger. at vigil omni 425

¹ tepentibus *P* : potentibus ω .

² calidis *P* : roseis ω .

^a *i.e.*, Polynices.

^b Theban, from Labdacus, grandfather of Oedipus.

with water—Idmon, now swift to ply the knife, now gentler with warm juice of herbs ;—he himself, withdrawn into his mind's deep brooding, tells over the beginning of the deeds of wrath, the words each spoke in turn, the place of ambush, and the time of secret battle, what chieftains and how great were matched against him, and where most he laboured, and he relates how Maeon was preserved to take the sad tidings. The faithful company, the princes and his wife's sire, are spellbound at his words, and wrath inflames the Tyrian exile.^a

Far on the sloping margin of the western sea the sinking Sun had unyoked his flaming steeds, and laved their bright manes in the springs of Ocean ; to meet him hastens Nereus of the deep and all his company, and the swift-striding Hours, who strip him of his reins and the woven glory of his golden coronet, and relieve his horses' dripping breasts of the hot harness ; some turn the well-deserving steeds into the soft pasture, and lean the chariot backward, pole in air. Night then came on, and laid to rest the cares of men and the prowlings of wild beasts, and wrapped the heavens in her dusky shroud, coming to all with kindly influence, but not to thee, Adrastus, nor to the Labdacian prince^b ; for Tydeus was held by generous slumber, steeped in dreams of valiant prowess. And now amid the night-wandering shades the god of battle from on high made to resound with the thunder of arms the Nemean fields and Arcady from end to end, and the height of Taenarum and Therapnae favoured of Apollo, and filled excited hearts with passion for himself. Fury and Wrath make trim his crest, and Panic, his own squire, handles his horses' reins. But Rumour, awake

STATIUS

Fama sono vanos rerum succincta tumultus
 antevolat currum flatuque impulsa gementum
 alipedum trepidas denso cum murmure plumas
 excutit : urget enim stimulis auriga cruentis
 facta, infecta loqui, curruque infestus ab alto 430
 terga comamque deae Scythica pater increpat hasta
 qualis ubi Aeolio dimissos carcere Ventos
 dux prae se Neptunus agit magnoque volentes
 incitat Aegaeo ; tristis comitatus eunti
 circum lora fremunt Nimbique Hiemesque profundae
 Nubilaque et vulso terrarum sordida fundo 436
 Tempestas : dubiae motis radicibus obstant
 Cyclades, ipsa tua Mycono Gyaroque revelli,
 Dele, times magnique fidem testaris alumni.
 Septima iam nitidum terris Aurora deisque 440
 purpureo vehit ore diem, Perseius heros
 cum primum arcana senior sese extulit aula,
 multa super bello generisque tumentibus amens
 incertusque animi, daret armis iura novosque
 gentibus¹ incuteret stimulos, an frena teneret 445
 irarum et motos capulis adstringeret enses.
 hinc pacis tranquilla movent, atque inde pudori
 foeda quies, flectique nova dulcedine pugnae
 difficiles populi ; dubio sententia tandem
 sera placet, vatum mentes ac provida veri 450
 sacra movere deum. sollers tibi cura futuri,

¹ gentibus *Pω* : mentibus *K*.

^a Bellona, *cf.* vii. 73.

^b Mars.

^c Delos, formerly a floating island, was made fastened to Myconos and Gyaros and made stationary, when Leto was about to give birth to Apollo and Artemis on it.

to every sound and girt with empty tidings of tumult, flies before the chariot, sped onward by the winged steeds' panting breath, and with loud whirring shakes out her fluttering plumes; for the charioteer^a with blood-stained goad urges her to speak, be it truth or falsehood, while threatening from the lofty car the sire^b with Scythian lance assails the back and tresses of the goddess. Even so their chieftain Neptune drives before him the Winds set free from Aeolus' cell, and speeds them willing over the wide Aegean; in his train Storms and high-piled Tempests, a surly company, clamour about his reins, and Clouds and the dark Hurricane torn from earth's rent bowels; wavering and shaken to their foundations the Cyclades stem the blast; even thou, Delos, fearest to be torn away from thy Myconos and Gyaros, and entreatest the protection of thy mighty son.^c

And now the seventh Dawn with shining face was bearing bright day to earth and heaven, when the Persean hero^d first came forth from the private chamber of his palace, distracted by thought of war and the princes' swelling ambition, and perplexed in mind, whether to give sanction and stir anew the rival peoples, or to hold tight the reins of anger and fasten in their sheaths the restless swords. On the one side he is moved by the thought of tranquil peace, on the other by the shame of dishonoured quiet and the hard task of turning a people from war's new glamour; in his doubt this late resolve at last finds favour, to try the mind of prophets and the true presaging of the sacred rites. To thy wisdom,

^a Adrastus; "Persean" here, as in i. 225, means Argive, because Perseus was son of Danae, daughter of Acrisius, king of Argos.

STATIUS

Amphiarae, datur, iuxtaque Amythaone cretus
 iam senior—sed mente viret Phoeboque—Melampus
 adsociat passus : dubium, cui pronus¹ Apollo
 oraue Cirrhaea satiarit largius unda. 455
 principio fibris pecudumque in sanguine divos
 explorant ; iam tunc pavidis maculosa bidentum
 corda negant diraque nefas minitancia vena.
 ire tamen vacuoque sedet petere omina caelo.
 Mons erat audaci seductus in aethera dorso— 460
 nomine Lernaei memorant Aphesanta coloni—,
 gentibus Argolicis olim sacer ; inde ferebant
 nubila suspenso celerem temerasse volatu
 Persea, cum raptos pueri perterrita mater
 prospexit de rupe gradus ac paene secuta est. 465
 huc gemini vates sanctam canentis olivae
 fronde comam et niveis ornati tempora vittis
 evadunt pariter, madidos ubi lucidus agros
 ortus et algentes laxavit sole pruinas.
 ac prior Oechdes solitum prece numen amicat : 470
 “ Iuppiter omnipotens—nam te pernicipibus alis
 addere consilium volucresque implere futuri
 ominaque et causas caelo deferre latentes
 accipimus—, non Cirrha deum promiserit antro
 certius, aut frondes lucis quas fama Molossis 475
 Chaonias sonuisse tibi : licet aridus Hammon
 invideat Lyciaeque parent contendere sortes

¹ pronus *P* : dexter *ω* : pectora *Bentley*.

^a Perseus was given wings to enable him to fly, when he slew the Gorgon Medusa.

^b *i.e.*, Amphiarus, son of Oecleus.

^c The oracles referred to are those of Apollo at Delphi,
 484

Amphiaraus, is given the charge to read the future, and with thee Melampus, son of Amythaon—an old man now, but fresh in vigour of mind and Phoebus' inspiration—bears company; 'tis doubtful which Apollo more favours, or whose mouth he has sated with fuller draughts of Cirrha's waters. At first they try the gods with entrails and blood of cattle: even then the spotted hearts of sheep and the dread veins threatening disaster portend refusal to the timorous seers. Yet they resolve to go and seek omens in the open sky.

A mount there was, with bold ridge rising far aloft—the dwellers in Lerna call it Aphetas—sacred of yore to Argive folk for thence they say swift Perseus^a profaned the clouds with hovering flight, when from the cliff his mother terror-stricken beheld the boy's high-soaring paces, and well nigh sought to follow. Hither the prophets twain, their sacred locks adorned with leaves of the grey olive and their temples decked with snow-white fillets, side by side ascend, when the sun rising bright has melted the cold hoarfrost on the humid fields. And first Oechides^b seeks with prayer the favour of the wonted deity: "Almighty Jupiter,—for thou, as we are taught, impartest counsel to swift wings, and dost fill the birds with futurity, and bring to light the omens and causes that lurk in mid-heaven,—not Cirrha^c can more surely vouchsafe the inspiration of her grotto, nor those Chaonian leaves that are famed to rustle at thy bidding in Molossian groves though arid Hammon envy, and the Lycian oracle contend in rivalry, and the beast of Zeus at Dodona, Zeus Ammon in Libya, Apollo in Lycia, Apis in Egypt, Branchus (son of Apollo) at Miletus.

STATIUS

Niliacumque pecus patrioque aequalis¹ honori
 Branchus, et undosae quem² rusticus accola Pisae
 Pana Lycaonia nocturnum exaudit in umbra, 480
 ditior ille animi, cui tu, Dictae, secundas
 impuleris manifestus aves. mirum unde, sed olim³
 hic honor altibus, superae seu conditor aulae
 sic dedit effusum chaos in nova semina texens,
 seu quia mutatae nostraque ab origine versis 485
 corporibus subiere notos, seu purior axis
 amotumque nefas et rarum insistere terris
 vera docent; tibi, summe sator terraeque deumque,
 scire licet. nos Argolicae primordia pugnae
 venturumque sinas caelo praenosse laborem. 490
 si datur et duris sedet haec sententia Parcis
 solvere Echionias Lernaea cuspide portas,
 signa feras laevusque tones; tunc omnis in astris
 consonet arcana volucris bona murmura lingua.
 si prohibes, hic nocte moras dextrisque profundum 495
 altibus praetexe diem." sic fatus, et alto
 membra locat scopulo; tunc plura ignotaque iungit
 numina et immensi fruitur caligine mundi.

Postquam rite diu partiti sidera cunctis
 perlegere animis oculisque sequacibus auras, 500
 tunc Amythaonius longo post tempore vates:
 "nonne sub excelso spirantis limite caeli,
 Amphiarae, vides, cursus ut nulla serenos

¹ aequalis *Pw*: aequatus *Schol.* Theb. viii. 198.

² quem *Mueller*: qui *Pw*.

³ olim *ω*: olims (olis) *P*: olimst *Mueller*: olim est *Garrod*.

^a Jupiter was born on Mt. Dicte in Crete, according to one legend.

Nile, and Branchus, whose honour is equal to his sire's, and Pan, whom the rustic dweller in wave-beat Pisa hears nightly beneath the Lycaonian shades, more richly blest in mind is he, for whom thou, O Dictæan,^a dost guide the favouring flights that show thy will. Mysterious is the cause, yet of old has this honour been paid to the birds, whether the Founder of the heavenly abode thus ordained, when he wrought the vast expanse of Chaos into fresh seeds of things; or because the birds went forth upon the breezes with bodies transformed and changed from shapes that once were ours; or because they learn truth from the purer heaven, where error comes not, and alight but rarely on the earth: 'tis known to thee, great sire of earth and of the gods. Grant that we may have foreknowledge from the sky of the beginnings of the Argive struggle and the contest that is to come. If it is appointed and the stern Fates are set in this resolve, that the Lernaean spear shall shatter the Echionian gates, show signs thereof and thunder leftward; then let every bird in heaven join in propitious melody of mystic language. If thou dost forbid, then weave delays, and on the right shroud with winged creatures the abyss of day." So spoke he, and settled his limbs upon a high rock; then to his prayer he adds more deities and deities unknown, and holds converse with the dark mysteries of the illimitable heaven.

When they had duly parted out the heavens and long scanned the air with keen attention and quick-following vision, at last the Amythaonian seer: "Seest thou not, Amphiaraus, how beneath the breathing sky's exalted bounds no winged creature travels on a course serene, nor hangs aloft, en-

STATIUS

ales agat liquidoque polum complexa meatu
 pendeat aut fugiens placabile planxerit omen? 505
 non comes obscurus tripodum, non fulminis ardens
 vector adest, flavaeque sonans avis unca Minervae,
 non venit auguriis melior; quin¹ vultur et altis
 desuper accipitres exsultavere rapinis.
 monstra volant, dirae stridunt in nube volucres, 510
 nocturnaeque gemunt striges et feralia bubo
 damna canens. quae prima deum portenta sequamur?
 hisne dari, Thymbraee, polum? simul ora recurvo
 ungue secant rabidae planctumque imitantibus alis
 exagitant zephyros et plumea pectora caedunt." 515
 ille sub haec. "equidem varii, pater, omina Phoebi
 saepe tuli: iam tum, prima cum pube virentem
 semideos inter pinus me Thessala reges
 duceret, hic casus terraeque marisque canentem
 obstipuerunt duces, nec me ventura locuto 520
 saepius in dubiis auditus Iasoni Mopsus.
 sed similis non ante metus aut² astra³ notavi
 prodigiosa magis; quamquam maiora parantur.
 huc adverte animum: clara regione profundi
 aetheros innumeri statuerunt agmina cygni, 525
 sive hos Strymonia Boreas eiecit ab Arcto,
 seu fecunda refert placidi clementia Nil.⁴
 fixerunt cursus: has rere in imagine Thebas;
 nam sese immoti gyro atque in pace silentes
 ceu muris valloque tenent. sed fortior ecce 530

¹ quin *Bernartius* (from a *ms.*): qui *Pw*.

² aut *Pw*: tamen *D*.

³ astra *Pw*. monstra *Mueller*: signa *Slater*, etc., but astra = caelum.

⁴ Nil *w*: caeli *P*.

^a The raven (bird of Apollo), the eagle (of Jupiter), and the owl.

^b Apollo was worshipped at Thymbra, in the Troad.

^c The Argo, which started from Iolcos in Thessaly.

'circling the pole in liquid flight, nor as it speeds
 along utters a cry of peaceful import? No dark
 companion of the tripod,^a nor fiery bearer of
 the thunderbolt is here, and fair-haired Minerva's
 hooting bird with the hooked beak comes not with
 better augury; but hawks and vultures exult on
 high over their airy plunder. Monstrous creatures
 are flying, and direful birds clamour in the clouds,
 nocturnal screech-owls cry, and the horned owl with
 its dismal funeral chant. What celestial portents
 are we to follow first? must we take these as lords
 of the sky, O Thymbraean ^b? Even now in frenzy do
 they tear each other's faces with crooked talons, and
 lash the breezes with pinions that seem to smite the
 bosom, and assail their feathery breasts." The other
 in reply: "Oft indeed, father, have I read omens
 of various sort from Phoebus. Yea, when in my
 vigorous youth the pinewood barque of Thessaly^c
 bore me in company of princes half-divine, even then
 did the chieftains listen spellbound to my chant of
 what should befall us on land and sea, nor Mopsus'
 self was hearkened to more often by Jason in per-
 plexity than my presagings of the future. But never
 ere this day felt I such terror, or observed prodigies
 so dire in heaven; yet happenings more awful are
 in store. Look hither then: in this clear region of
 profound aether numberless swans have marshalled
 their ranks, whether Boreas has driven them from
 the Strymonian North, or the benignant fostering
 air of placid Nile recalls them. They have stopped
 their flight: these deem thou in fancy to be Thebes,
 for they hold themselves motionless in a circle and
 are silent and at peace, as though enclosed by
 walls and rampart. But lo! a more valiant cohort

STATIUS

adventat per inane cohors ; septem ordine fulvo
 armigeras summi Iovis exsultante caterva
 intuo : Inachii sint hi tibi, concipe, reges.
 invasere globum nivei gregis uncaque pandunt
 caedibus ora novis et strictis unguibus instant. 535
 cernis inexpertorantes sanguine ventos,
 et plumis stillare diem ? quae saeva repente
 victores agitat leto Iovis ira sinistri ?
 hic excelsa petens subita face solis inarsit
 submitteque animos, illum vestigia adortum 540
 maiorum volucrum tenerae deponitis alae.
 hic hosti implicitus pariter ruit, hunc fuga retro
 volvit agens sociae linquentem fata catervae.
 hic nimbo glomeratus obit, hic praepete viva
 pascitur immorians ; spargit cava nubila sanguis." 545
 "quid furtim inlacrimas ? " "illum, venerande Me-
 lampu,
 qui cadit, agnosco." trepidos sic mole futuri
 cunctaque iam rerum certa sub imagine passos
 terror habet vates ; piget inrupisse volantum
 concilia et caelo mentem insertasse vetanti, 550
 auditque odere deos.—unde iste per orbem
 primus venturi miseris animantibus aeger
 crevit amor ? divumne feras hoc munus, an ipsi,
 gens avida et parto non umquam stare quieti,

^a *i.e.*, eagles, "ministers of the thunderbolt."

^b In the following lines the fate of the Seven is foreshown, first Capaneus, then Parthenopaeus, Polynices, Adrastus, Hippomedon, Tydeus : finally Amphiaraus sees his own fate.

^c "tenerae" shows that Parthenopaeus is meant here.

^d This is the only instance in the *Thebaid* of a change of speaker without introductory words (*e.g.*, he said) ; I have kept the traditional punctuation, though it would be quite possible to give "quid," etc., to Amphiaraus, and not make

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advances through the empty air; a tawny line of seven birds that bear the weapons of Jupiter supreme^a I see, an exultant band; suppose that in these thou hast the Inachian princes. They have flung themselves on the circle of the snow-white flock, and open wide their hooked beaks for fresh slaughter, and with talons unsheathed press on to the attack. Seest thou the breezes dripping unwonted blood, and the air raining feathers? What sudden fierce anger of unpropitious Jove is driving the victors to destruction? This one^b soaring to the height is consumed by the sun's quick fire, and lays down his proud spirit, that other, bold in pursuit of mightier birds, you let sink, ye still frail pinions.^c This one falls grappling with his foe, that one is swept backward by the rout and leaves his company to their fate. This one a rain-cloud overwhelms, another in death devours his winged foe yet living; blood bespatters the hollow clouds." "What mean those secret tears^d?" "Him yonder falling, reverend Melampus, him I know full well!" Affrighted thus by the future's dire import, and having suffered all under a sure image of things to come, the seers are held by terror; it repents them that they have broken in upon the councils of the flying birds, and forced their will upon a forbidding heaven; though heard, they hate the gods that heard them. Whence first arose among unhappy mortals throughout the world that sickly craving for the future? Sent by heaven, wouldst thou call it? Or is it we ourselves, a race insatiable, never content to abide on knowledge gained, that

Melampus speak at all. Melampus weeps because he understands Amphiaraus's fate; then Amphiaraus says "Why do you weep for me: I know my fate."

eruimus, quae prima dies, ubi terminus aevi, 555
 quid bonus ille deum genitor, quid ferrea Clotho
 cogitet? hinc fibrae et volucrum per nubila sermo
 astrorumque vices numerataque semina¹ lunae
 Thessalicumque nefas. at non prior aureus ille
 sanguis avum scopulisque satae vel robore gentes 560
 mentibus his usae; silvas amor unus humumque
 edomuisse manu; quid crastina volveret aetas,
 scire nefas homini. nos pravum et flebile vulgus
 scrutari penitus superos: hinc pallor et irae,
 hinc scelus insidiaeque et nulla modestia voti. 565

Ergo manu vittas damnataque vertice sarta
 deripit abiectaue inhonoris fronde sacerdos
 invisio de monte redit; iam bella tubaeque
 comminus, absentesque fremunt sub pectore Thebae.
 ille nec aspectum volgi, nec fida tyranni 570
 conloquia aut coetus procerum perferre, sed atra
 sede tegi, et superum clausus negat acta fateri;
 te pudor et curae retinent per rura, Melampu.
 bisenos premit ora dies populumque ducesque
 extrahit incertis. et iam suprema Tonantis 575
 iussa fremunt agrosque viris annosaque vastant
 oppida; bellipotens prae se deus agmina passim
 mille rapit; liquere domos dilectaue laeti
 conubia et primo plorantes lumine natos:
 tantus in attonitos cecidit deus. arma paternis 580
 postibus et fixos superum ad penetralia currus

¹ semina *PL*: semita *ω*.

^a The reference is apparently to horoscopes.

^b It is not clear what he means by this; possibly "semita" should be read, "the calculated path of the moon."

^c The earliest races, *e.g.* the Arcadians, were supposed to have sprung from trees or rocks.

search out the day of our birth^a and the scene of our life's ending, what the kindly Father of the gods is thinking, or iron-hearted Clotho? Hence comes it that entrails occupy us, and the airy speech of birds, and the moon's numbered seeds,^b and Thessalia's horrid rites. But that earlier golden age of our forefathers, and the races born of rock or oak^c were not thus minded; their only passion was to gain the mastery of the woods and the soil by might of hand; it was forbidden to man to know what to-morrow's day would bring. We, a depraved and pitiable crowd, probe deep the counsels of the gods; hence come wrath and anxious fear, hence crime and treachery, and importunity in prayer.

Therefore the priest tears from his brow the fillets and wreaths condemned of heaven, and all unhonoured, his chaplet cast away, returns from the hated mount; already war is at hand, and the sound of trumpets, and in his heart he hears the clamour of absent Thebes. Not sight of populace, nor trusted converse with the monarch, nor council of chieftains can he bear, but hidden in his dark chamber refuses to make known the doings of the gods; thee, Melampus, shame and thy own cares keep in thy country region. For twelve days he speaks not, and holds people and leaders in long-drawn suspense. And now tumultuous grow the Thunderer's high behests, and lay waste of men both fields and ancient towns; on every side the war-god sweeps countless troops before him; gladly do they leave their homes and beloved wives and babes that wail upon the threshold; with such power hath the god assailed their frenzied hearts. Eager are they to tear away the weapons from their fathers' doorposts and the

vellere amor ; tunc fessa putri robigine pila
 haerentesque situ gladios in saeva recurant¹
 vulnera et adtrito cogunt iuvenescere saxo.
 hi teretes galeas magnorumque aerea suta 585
 thoracum et tunicas chalybum squalore crepantes
 pectoribus temptare, alii Cortynia lentant
 cornua ; iam falces avidis et aratra caminis
 rastraque et incurvi saevum rubuere ligones.
 caedere nec validas sanctis e stirpibus hastas, 590
 nec pudor emerito clipeum vestisse iuvenco.
 inrupere Argos maestique ad limina regis
 bella animis, bella ore fremunt ; it clamor ad auras,
 quantus Tyrrheni gemitus salis, aut ubi temptat
 Enceladus mutare latus ; super igneus antris 595
 mons tonat, exundant apices fluctusque Pelorus
 contrahit, et sperat tellus abrupta reverti.

Atque hic ingenti Capaneus Mavortis amore
 excitus et longam pridem indignantia pacem 599
 corda tumens—huic ampla quidem de sanguine prisco
 nobilitas ; sed enim ipse manu praegressus avorum
 facta, diu tuto superum contemptor et aequi
 impatiens largusque animae, modo suaserit ira—,
 unus ut e silvis Pholoes habitator opacae
 inter et Aetnaeos aequus consurgere fratres, 605
 ante fores, ubi turba ducum vulgique frementis,
 Amphiaræ, tuas “ quæ tanta ignavia ” clamat,

¹ recurant *P*: recurvant *ω*: recurunt (*with r written over*)
D.

•chariots made fast in the inmost shrines of the gods ; then they refashion for cruel wounds the spears that rotting rust has worn, and the swords that stick in their scabbards from neglect, and on the grindstone force them to be young once more. Some try shapely helms and the brazen mail of mighty corselets, and fit to their breasts tunics that creak with the mouldering iron, others bend Gortynian bows ; in greedy furnaces scythes, ploughs and harrows and curved mattocks glow fiercely red. Nor are they ashamed to cut strong spear-shafts from sacred trees, or to make a covering for their shields from the worn-out ox. They rush to Argos, and at the doors of the despondent king clamour with heart and voice for war, for war ! And the shout goes up like the roar of the Tyrrhenian surge, or when Enceladus ^a tries to shift his side : above, the fiery mountain thunders from its caves, its peak o'erflows and Pelorus' flood is narrowed, and the sundered land hopes to return once more.

Then Capaneus, impelled by war's overmastering passion, with swelling heart that had long thought scorn of lingering peace,—nobility of ancient blood had he in full measure, but, surpassing the prowess of his sires, he had long despised the gods ; impatient too was he of justice, and lavish of his life, did wrath but urge him—even as a dweller in Pholoe's dark forests, or one who might stand equal among Aetnaean brethren,^b clamours before thy portals, Amphiaras, amid a crowd of chieftains and yelling folk . “ What shameful cowardice is this, O sons

^a A giant imprisoned under Aetna. Pelorus was a promontory to the N.E. of Messina.

^b *i.e.*, like a Centaur or one of the Cyclopes.

" Inachidae vosque o socio de sanguine Achivi ?
 unius—heu pudeat !—plebeia ad limina civis
 tot ferro accinctae gentes animisque paratae 610
 pendemus ? non si ipse cavo sub vertice Cirrhae,
 quisquis is est, timidus famaеque ita visus, Apollo
 mugiat insano penitus seclusus in antro,
 exspectare queam, dum pallida virgo tremendas
 nuntiet ambages. virtus mihi numen et ensis, 615
 quem teneo ! iamque hic timida cum fraude sacerdos
 exeat, aut hodie, volucrum quae tanta potestas,
 experiar." laetum fremit adsensuque furem
 implet Achaea manus. tandem prorumpere adactus
 Oechdes: " alio curarum agitante tumultu 620
 non equidem effreno iuvenis clamore profani
 dictorumque metu, licet hic insana minetur,
 elicior tenebris ; alio mihi debita fato
 summa dies, vetitumque dari mortalibus armis.
 sed me vester amor nimiusque arcana profari 625
 Phoebus agit ; vobis ventura atque omne, quod ultra
 est,
 pandere maestus eo ; nam te, vesane, moneri
 ante nefas, unique tacet tibi noster Apollo.
 quo, miseri, fatis superisque obstantibus arma,
 quo rapitis ? quae vos Furiarum verbera caecos 630
 exagitant ? adeone animarum taedet ? et Argos
 exosi ? nil dulce domi ? nulla omina curae ?
 quid me Persei secreta ad culmina montis
 ire gradu trepido superumque inrumpere coetus
 egistis ? potui pariter nescire, quis armis 635

^a Parnassus : Cirrha was really the town on the Corinthian gulf, but is often used for Delphi.

of Inachus, and ye Achaeans of kindred blood ? Before one citizen's lowly door—for shame !—do we hang irresolute, so vast a host, iron-girt and of ready valour ? Not if beneath Cirrha's caverned height ^a he, whoe'er he is—Apollo cowards and rumour account him—were to bellow from the deep seclusion of his crazy grotto, could I wait for the pale virgin to announce the solemn riddlings ! Valour and the good sword in my hand are the gods I worship ! And now let this priest with his timid trickery come out, or this very day I shall make trial, what wondrous power there is in birds." The Achaean mob raise joyful outcry, and encourage his madness. At last Oeclides, driven to rush forth among them . " 'Tis not the unrestrained clamour of a blasphemous stripling nor the fear of his taunts that draws me from my darkness, mad though his threatenings be ; far different are the tumultuous cares that vex me, far other is the destiny that brings my final doom, nor may mortal arms have power upon me. But now my love for you and Phoebus' strong inspiration compel me to speak forth my oracle ; sadly to you will I reveal what is to come, yea all that lies beyond, —to you, I say, for to thee, thou madman, nought may be foreshown, concerning thee only is our lord Apollo silent. Whither, unhappy ones, whither are ye rushing to war, though fate and heaven would bar the way ? What Furies' lash drives you blindly on ? Are ye so weary of life ? Is Argos grown so hateful ? Hath home no sweetness ? Heed ye not the omens ? Why did ye force me to climb with trembling step to the secret heights of Perseus' mount, and break into the council of the heavenly ones ? I could have remained in ignorance with

casus, ubi atra dies, quae fati exordia cunctis,
 quae mihi. consulti testor penetralia mundi
 et volucrum adfatus et te, Thymbraee, vocanti
 non alias tam saeve mihi, quae signa futuri
 pertulerim : vidi ingentis portenta ruinae, 640
 vidi hominum divumque metus¹ hilaremque Megaeram
 et Lachesin putri vacuantem² saecula penso.
 proicite arma manu : deus ecce furentibus obstat,
 ecce deus ! miseri, quid pulchrum sanguine victo
 Aoniam et diri saturare novalia Cadmi ? 645
 sed quid vana cano, quid fixos arceo casus ?
 ibimus— ” hic presso gemuit semel ore sacerdos.
 illum iterum Capaneus : “ tuus o furor auguret³ uni
 ista tibi, ut serves vacuos inglorius annos
 et tua non umquam Tyrrhenus tempora circum 650
 clangor eat. quid vota virum meliora moraris ?
 scilicet ut vanis avibus natoque domoque
 et thalamis potiari iacens, sileamus inulti
 Tydeos egregii perfossum pectus et arma
 foederis abrupti ? quodsi bella effera Graios 655
 ferre vetas, 1 Sidonios legatus ad hostes :
 haec pacem tibiserta dabunt. tua prorsus inani
 verba polo causas abstrusaque nomina⁴ rerum
 eliciunt ? miseret superum, si carmina curae

¹ metus *P* : nefas ω .

² vacuantem *Pw* : laxantem *P margin*.

³ auguret *Mueller* : augur et *Pw*.

⁴ nomina *P* : semina ω , momina *Baehrens*.

"you, of what hap awaits our arms, when cometh the black day of doom, what heralds the common fate—and mine! I call to witness the mysteries of the universe I questioned, and the speech of birds, and thee, Thymbraean, never before so pitiless to my supplication, what presagings of the future I endured: I saw a mighty ruin foreshown, I saw gods and men dismayed and Megaera exultant and Lachesis with crumbling thread laying the ages waste. Cast away your arms! behold! heaven, yea, heaven withstands your frenzy! Miserable men, what glory is there in drenching Aonia and the fallows of dire Cadmus with the blood of vanquished foes? But why do I warn in vain? why do I repel a fate foredoomed? I go to meet it—" Here ceased the prophet, and groaned. To him Capaneus yet once more: "To thyself alone utter thy raving auguries, that thou mayst live empty and inglorious years, nor ever the Tyrrhenian clangour^a resound about thy temples. But why dost thou delay the nobler vows of heroes? Is it forsooth that thou in slothful ease mayst lord it over thy silly birds and thy son and home and women's chambers, that we are to shroud in silence the stricken breast of peerless Tydeus and the armed breach of covenant? Dost thou forbid the Greeks to make fierce war? then go thyself an envoy to our Sidonian foe: these chaplets will assure thee peace. Can thy words really coax from the void of heaven the causes and hidden names of things? Pitable in sooth are the gods, if they

^a *i.e.*, of the trumpet; the Etruscans excelled in bronze work, and this epithet of the trumpet is as old as Aeschylus (*Eum.* 567).

humanaeque preces ! quid inertia pectora terres? 660^f
 primus in orbe deos fecit timor ! et tibi tuto
 nunc eat iste furor ; sed prima ad classica cum iam
 hostilem Ismenon galeis Dircenque bibemus,
 ne mihi tunc, moneo, lituos atque arma volenti
 obuius ire pares venisque aut alite visa 665
 bellorum proferre diem : procul haec tibi mollis
 infula terrificique aberit dementia Phoebi :
 illic augur ego et mecum quicumque parati
 insanire manu.” rursus fragor intonat ingens
 hortantum et vasto subter volat astra tumultu. 670
 ut rapidus torrens, animos cui verna ministrant
 flamina et exuti concreto frigore montes,
 cum vagus in campos frustra prohibentibus exit
 obicibus, resonant permixto turbine tecta,
 arva, armenta, viri, donec stetit improbus alto 675
 colle minor magnoque invenit in aggere ripas :
 haec alterna ducum nox interfusa diremit.

At gemitus Argia viri non amplius aequo
 corde ferens sociumque animo miserata dolorem,
 sicut erat laceris pridem turpata capillis 680
 et fletu signata genas, ad celsa verendi
 ibat tecta patris, parvumque sub ubere caro
 Thessandrum portabat avo iam nocte suprema
 ante novos ortus, ubi sola superstite plaustro
 Arctos ad oceanum fugientibus invidet astris. 685
 utque fores inuit magnoque adfusa parenti est :
 “ cur tua cum lacrimis maesto sine coniuge supplex
 limina nocte petam, cessem licet ipsa profari,

^a See Petronius, frag. 27, where this commonplace of the rhetoricians is developed in verse.

Take heed of enchantments and prayers of men !
 Why dost thou affright these sluggish minds ? Fear
 first created gods in the world !^a Rave therefore
 now thy fill in safety ; but when the first trumpets
 bray, and we are drinking from our helms the hostile
 waters of Dirce and Ismenos, come not then, I warn
 thee, in my path, when I am yearning for the bugle
 and the fray, nor by veins or view of winged fowl
 put off the day of battle ; far away then will be thy
 soft fillet and the crazy alarms of Phoebus · then
 shall I be augur, and with me all who are ready to
 be mad in fight.” Again out thunders a vast ap-
 proving shout, and rolls uproarious to the stars.
 Even as a swift torrent, drawing strength from the
 winds of spring and from the melting of the frozen
 cold upon the mountains, when o’er vainly hindering
 obstacles it bursts its way out upon the plain, then
 homesteads, crops, cattle, and men roar mingled in
 the whirling flood, until its fury is checked and baffled
 by a rising hill, and it finds itself embanked by
 mighty mounds : even so interposing night set an
 end to the chieftains’ quarrel.

But Argia, no longer able to bear with calm mind
 her lord’s distress, and pitying the grief wherein she
 shared, even as she was, her face long marred by
 tearing of her hair and marks of weeping, went to
 the high palace of her reverend father in the last
 watch of night ere dawn, when Arctos’ wagon sole-
 surviving envies the ocean-fleeing stars, and bore in
 her bosom to his loving grandsire the babe Thessander.
 And when she had entered the door and was clasped
 in her mighty parent’s arms : “ Why I seek thy
 threshold at night, tearful and suppliant, without my
 sorrowful spouse, thou knowest, father, even were I

scis genitor. sed iura deum genialia testor
 teque pater, non ille iubet, sed pervigil angor ; 690
 ex quo primus Hymen movitque infausta sinistram
 Iuno facem, semper lacrimis gemituque propinquo
 exturbata quies. non si mihi tigridis horror
 aequoreasque¹ super rigeant praecordia cautes,
 ferre queam ; tu solus opem, tu summa medendi 695
 iura tenes ; da bella, pater, generique iacentis
 aspice res humiles, atque hanc, pater, aspice prolem
 exsulis ; huic olim generis pudor. o ubi prima
 hospitium et iunctae testato² numine dextrae !
 hic certe est, quem fata dabant, quem dixit Apollo ;
 non egomet tacitos Veneris furata calores 701
 culpatamve facem : tua iussa verenda tuosque
 dilexi monitus. nunc qua feritate dolentis
 despiciam questus ? nescis, pater optime, nescis,
 quantus amor castae³ misero nupsisse marito. 705
 et nunc maesta quidem grave et inlaetabile munus,
 ut timeam doleamque, rogo ; sed cum oscula rumpet
 maesta dies, cum rauca dabunt abeuntibus armis
 signa tubae saevoque genas fulgebitis auro,
 ei mihi ! care pater,⁴ iterum fortasse rogabo.” 710
 Illius umentem carpens pater oscula vultu :
 “ non equidem has umquam culparum, nata, querellas ;
 pone metus, laudanda rogas nec digna negari.
 sed mihi multa dei—nec tu sperare, quod urges,
 desine—, multa metus regnique volubile pondus 715

¹ aequoreas *Klotz*. aequoreae *P*ω.

² testato ω : funesto *P* : manifesto *Baehrens*.

³ castae *P* : causae ω.

⁴ pater ω : parens *P*.

slow to tell the cause. But I swear by the sacred laws of wedlock and by thee, O sire, 'tis not he that bids me, but my wakeful anguish. For ever since Hymen at the first and unpropitious Juno raised the ill-omened torch, my sleep has been disturbed by my consort's tears and moans. Not if I were a tigress bristling fierce, not if my heart were rougher than rocks on the sea-strand, could I bear it; thou only canst help me, thou hast the sovereign power to heal. Grant war, O father; look on the low estate of thy fallen son-in-law, look, father, here on the exile's babe; what shame for his birth will he one day feel! Ah! where is that first bond of friendship, and the hands joined beneath heaven's blessing? This surely is he whom the fates assigned, of whom Apollo spake; no hidden fires of Venus have I in secret cherished, no guilty wedlock; thy reverend commands, thy counsel have I ever esteemed. Now with what cruelty should I despise his doleful plant? Thou knowest not, good father, thou knowest not, what deep affection a husband's misery implants in a loyal bride. And now in sadness I crave this hard and joyless privilege of fear and grief; but when the sorrowful day interrupts our kisses, when the clarions blare their hoarse commands to the departing host, and your faces glitter in their stern casques of gold, ah! then, dear father, mayhap I shall crave a different boon."

Her sire, with kisses on her tear-bedewed face: "Never, my daughter, could I blame these plants of thine; have no fears, praiseworthy is thy request, deserving no refusal. But much the gods give me to ponder—nor cease thou to hope for what thou urgest—much my own fears and this realm's un-

STATIUS

subiciunt animo. veniet, qui debitus istis,
nata, modus, neque te incassum flevisse quereris.
tu solare virum, neu sint dispendia iustae
dura morae : magnos cunctamur, nata, paratus.
proficitur bello.” dicentem talia nascens 720
lux monet ingentesque iubent adsurgere curae

•certain governance. In due measure shall thy prayers be answered, and thou shalt not complain thy tears were fruitless. Console thy husband and hold not just tarrying cruel waste of time ; 'tis the greatness of the enterprise that brings delay. So gain we advantage for the war." As thus he spoke, the new-born light admonished him, and his grave cares bade him arise.

LIBER IV

Tertius horrentem zephyris laxaverat annum
Phoebus et angustum cogebat limite verno¹
longius ire diem, cum fracta impulsaque fatis
consilia et tandem miseri data copia belli
prima manu rutilam de vertice Larissaeo 5
ostendit Bellona facem dextraque trabalem
hastam intorsit agens, liquido quae stridula caelo
fugit et Aoniae celso stetit aggere Dirces
mox et castra subit ferroque auroque coruscis
mixta viris turmale fremut ; dat euntibus enses, 10
plaudit equos, vocat ad portas ; hortamina fortes
praeveniunt, timidisque etiam brevis addita virtus.

Dicta dies aderat. cadit ingens rite Tonanti
Gradivoque pecus, nullisque secundus in extis
pallet et armatis simulat sperare sacerdos. 15
iamque suos circum pueri nuptaeque patresque
funduntur mixti summisque a postibus obstant.
nec modus est lacrimis : rorant clipeique iubaeque
triste salutantum, et cunctis dependet ab armis
suspiranda domus ; galeis iuvat oscula clusis 20

¹ angustum . . . verno ω : angusto . . . verum *P.*

BOOK IV

THRICE had Phoebus loosened stark winter with the Zephyrs, and was constraining the scanty day to move in its vernal path with a longer course, when counsellings yielded to the shock of fate, and pitiful war was given at last an ample field. First from the Larissaeon height Bellona displayed her ruddy torch, and with right arm drove the spear-shaft whirling ; hissing, it flew through the clear heaven, and stood fixed on the high rampart of Aonian Dirce. Then to the camp she goes and, mingling with the heroes that glittered in gold and steel, shouts like a squadron ; she gives swords to hurrying warriors, claps their steeds and beckons gateward ; the brave anticipate her promptings and even the timid are inspired to short-lived valour.

The appointed day had come. A mighty herd falls in due sacrifice to the Thunderer and to Mars ; the priest, cheered by no favouring entrails, pales and feigns hope before the host. And now around their kinsmen sons and brides and fathers pour mingled, and from the summit of the gates would fain delay them. No stint is there of tears : bedewed are the shields and helmet-crests of those who make their sad farewell, and the household, the object of their sighs, clings to every weapon ; they delight to find entrance for their kisses through the closed visors,

STATIUS

inserere amplexuque truces deducere conos
 illi, quis ferrum modo, quis mors ipsa placebat,
 dant gemitus fractaque labant singultibus ira.
 sic ubi forte viris longum super aequor ituris,
 cum iam ad vela noti et scisso redit ancora fundo, 25
 haeret amica manus : certant innectere collo
 brachia, manantesque oculos hinc oscula turbant,
 hinc magni caligo maris, tandemque relictī
 stant in rupe tamen ; fugientia carbasa visu
 dulce sequi, patriosque dolent crebrescere ventos. 30
 stant tamen, et nota puppim de rupe salutant.¹

Nunc mihi, Fama prior mundique arcana Vetustas,
 cui meminisse ducum vitasque extendere curae,
 pande viros, tuque o nemoris regina sonori,
 Calliope, quas ille manus, quae moverit arma 35
 Gradivus, quantas populis solaverit urbes,
 sublata molire lyra : neque enim altior ulli
 mens hausto de fonte venit. rex tristis et aeger
 pondere curarum propiorque abeuntibus annis
 inter adhortantes vix sponte incedit Adrastus, 40
 contentus ferro cingi latus ; arma manipli
 pone ferunt, volucres portis auriga sub ipsis
 comit equos, et iam inde iugo luctatur Arion
 huic armat Larissa viros, huic celsa Prosymna,
 aptior armentis Midea pecorosaque Phlius, 45

¹ ll. 29, 30 omitted by *ω*, 31 omitted by *P*.

^a E. H. Alton (*Class. Quarterly*, xvii. p. 175) interprets, possibly correctly, "content with a bodyguard," and "arma ferunt" as "march, fully armed," comparing vii. 501 "multoque latus praeefulgurat ense," also "ferrum" in i. 148, iv. 145.

And to draw down the grim helmet-peaks to their embrace. They who of late took pleasure in the sword, yea in death itself, now groan and shake with sobbing, their warlike temper broken. Even so, when men are about to go perchance on some long voyage o'er the sea, and already the south winds are in the sails and the anchor rises from its torn bed, the loving band clings fast and enlaces their necks with eager arms, and their streaming eyes are dimmed, some with kisses, some with the sea's vast haze ; at last they are left behind, yet stand upon a rock, and rejoice to follow the swift-flying canvas with their gaze, while they grieve that their native breezes are blowing ever stronger ; yet still they stand, and beckon to the ship from the well-known rock.

Now, Fame of olden time, and thou, dark Antiquity of the world, whose care it is to remember princes and to make immortal the story of their lives, recount the warriors, and thou, Calliope, queen of the groves of song, uplift thy lyre and begin the tale, what troops of arms Gradivus roused, what cities he laid waste of their peoples ; for to none comes loftier inspiration from the fountain's draught. The king Adrastus, sick with misgiving beneath the burden of his cares, and drawing nigh his life's departure, walked scarce of his own will amongst the applauding people, content to be girt but with his sword ; ^a attendants bear his arms behind him, his charioteer tends the swift horses close by the city gates, and already is Arion struggling against the yoke. To support their king Larissa and high Prosymna arm their men, and Midea, fitter home of herds, and Phlius rich in cattle, and Neris that

quaeque pavet longa spumantem valle Charadron^a
 Neris, et ingenti turritae mole Cleonae
 et Lacedaemonium Thyrea lectura¹ cruorem.
 iunguntur memores transmissi ab origine regis,
 qui Drepani scopulos et oliviferae Sicyonis 50
 culta serunt, quos pigra vado Strangilla² tacenti
 lambit et anfractu riparum incurvus Elisson.
 saevus honos fluvio : Stygias lustrare severis
 Eumenidas perhibetur aquis ; huc mergere suetae
 ora et anhelantes poto Phlegethonte cerastas, 55
 seu Thracum vertere domos, seu tecta Mycenae
 impia Cadmeumve larem ; fugit ipse natantes
 amnis, et innumeris livescunt stagna venenis.
 it comes Inoas Ephyre solata querellas
 Cenchreaeque manus, vatum qua conscius amnis 60
 Gorgoneo percussus equo, quaque obiacet alto
 Isthmos et a terris maria inclinata repellit.
 haec manus Adrastum numero ter mille secuti
 exsultant ; pars gaesa manu, pars robora flammis
 indurata diu—non unus namque manipulis 65
 mos neque sanguis—habent, teretes pars vertere³
 fundas
 adsueti vacuoque diem praecingere gyro.

¹ Thyrea lectura *Weber* : thyla electura *P.* thyre lectura *ω.*

² Strangilla *P.* : stagilla *D.* : Langia *ω* (*but Langia is near Nemea*) ; *various conjectures have been made.*

³ vertere *ω* : vertice *P.* *Garrod reads* teretis . . . fundae *here, and conj. vacuumque.*

^a A district on the borders of Argolis and Laconia, which was the subject of constant fighting between Argives and Spartans down to as late as a hundred years after Statius's time.

^b Adrastus was originally ruler of Sicyon, having fled thither from Argos owing to a feud, but subsequently returned to Argos ; *cf.* ii. 179.

quails at Charadros foaming down his valley's length, Cleonae with her piled mass of towers, and Thyrea ^a destined one day to reap a harvest of Spartan gore. To them are joined men who remember the king sent thence in early days,^b men who cultivate the rocky heights of Drepanum and olive-bearing Sicyon, and whom Strangilla laves with lazy, silent stream, and Elisson winding through his curving banks. An awful privilege has that river: it cleanses, so 'tis said, with its austere waters the Stygian Eumenides; here are they wont to dip their faces and the horned snakes that gasp from drinking Phlegethon, whether they have ruined Thracian homes^c or Mycenae's impious palace or Cadmus' dwelling; the river itself flees from them as they bathe, and its pools grow livid with countless poisons. Ephyre, who consoled the weeping Ino,^d lends her company, and Cenchreae, where the river, struck by the Gorgon-quelling steed, owns the presence of the bard, and where Isthmos lies athwart the deep and wards off from the land the sloping seas. This troop, in all three thousand, followed in Adrastus' train exultant; some bore pikes in their hand, some stakes long hardened in the fire—for neither blood nor custom are shared by all their bands—some are wont to whirl firmly-woven slings and gird the air with a trackless circle.

^a Probably refers to the madness sent upon Lycurgus, king of Thrace, by Dionysus.

^b She bewailed her son Palaemon at Lechaeum, port of Corinth (Ephyre). Cenchreae was the port on the Saronic Gulf; the spring struck out by the hoof of Pegasus was usually placed on Helicon (Hippocrene), but was sometimes identified with Pirene, the fountain at Corinth, *cf. Silvae*, ii. 7. 2.

STATIUS

ipse annis sceptrisque subit venerabilis aequae :
 ut possessa diu taurus meat arduus inter
 pascua iam laxa cervice et inanibus armis, 70
 dux tamen : haud illum bello adtemptare iuvenis
 sunt animi ; nam trunca vident de vulnere multo
 cornua et ingentes plagarum in pectore nodos.

Proxima longaevae profert Dircaeus Adraсто
 signa gener, cui bella favent,¹ cui commodat iras 75
 cuncta cohors : huic et patria de sede volentes
 advenere viri, seu quos movet exsul et haesit
 tristibus aucta fides, seu quis mutare potentes
 praecipuum, multi, melior quos causa querenti
 conciliat ; dederat nec non ipse regendas 80
 Aegion Arenenque, et quas Theseia Troezen
 addit opes, ne rara movens inglorius iret
 agmina, neu raptos patriae sentiret honores.
 idem habitus, eadem arma viro, quae debitus hospes
 hiberna sub nocte tulit : Teumesius implet 85
 terga leo et gemino lucent hastilia ferro,
 aspera volnifico subter latus ense riget Sphinx.
 iam regnum matrisque sinus fidisque sorores
 spe votisque tenet, tamen et de turre suprema
 attonitam totoque exstantem corpore longe 90
 respicit Argian ; haec mentem oculosque reducit
 coniugis et dulces avertit pectore Thebas.

Ecce inter medios patriae ciet agmina gentis
 fulmineus Tydeus, iam laetus et integer artus,

¹ favent *Po* : gent *Bentley*.

^a He was born there, at the home of his mother Aethra,
 whose father Pittheus was king of Troezen.

^b See i. 482.

The king himself moves venerable alike in years and rank : as a tall bull goes amid the pastures he has long possessed, his neck and shoulders now drooping and void of strength, yet the leader still ; no courage have the steers to try him in the fight, for they see the horns that many a blow has broken, and huge scars of wounds upon his breast.

Next to the aged Adrastus his Dircaean son-in-law brings forth his standards ; to his cause the war does service, to him the whole army lends its martial ire, for him even from his native home have men come gladly, whether those whom his exile moves, and in whom loyalty has stood sure strengthened by adversity, or those in whom desire to change their ruler is uppermost, many again whom the better cause makes favourable to his complaint. Moreover, his father-in-law had given him Aegion and Arene to rule, and all the wealth that Troezen, famous for Theseus,^a brings, lest with scant following he should go inglorious, and feel the loss of his native honours. The hero wears the same dress and carries the same arms as on that winter's night, when he owed the duty of a guest.^b a Teumesian lion covers his back, and the twin points of javelins glitter, while by his side a cruel Sphinx rises stiff on his wound-dealing sword. Already in his hopes and prayers he is master of his realm, and holds his mother and faithful sisters in his embrace, yet he looks back upon distraught Argia as she stands on the high tower against the sky ; she draws back to herself her husband's eyes and thoughts, and drives pleasant Thebes from out his mind.

Lo ! in their midst Tydeus flashing bright leads on his native squadrons, glad already and hale of

ut primae strepuere tubae : ceu lubricus alta 95
 anguis humo verni blanda ad spiramina solis
 erigitur liber senio et squalentibus annis
 exutus laetisque minax interviret herbis :
 a miser ! agrestum si quis per gramen hianti
 obvius et primo fraudaverit¹ ora veneno. 100
 huic quoque praesentes Aetolis urbibus adfert
 belli fama viros : sensit scopulosa Pylene
 fletaque cognatis avibus Meleagria Pleuron
 et praeceps Calydon, et quae Iove provocat Iden
 Olenos, Ionis et fluctibus hospita portu 105
 Chalcis et Herculea turpatus gymnade vultus
 amnis ; adhuc imis vix truncam adtollere frontem
 ausus aquis glaucoque caput submersus in antro
 maeret, anhelantes aegrescunt pulvere ripae.
 omnibus aeratae propugnant pectora crates, 110
 pilaeque saeva manu, patrius stat casside Mavors.
 undique magnanimum pubes delecta coronant
 Oeniden, hilarem bello notisque decorum
 vulneribus ; non ille minis Polynicis et ira
 inferior, dubiumque adeo, cui bella gerantur. 115
 Maior at inde novis it Doricus ordo sub armis,
 qui ripas, Lyncie, tuas, tua litora multo
 vomere suspendunt, fluviorum ductor Achivum,
 Inache—Persea neque enim violentior exit
 amnis humo, cum Taurum aut Pleiadas hausit aquosas

¹ fraudaverit *P* : siccaverit *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, after his wounds received at Thebes in the ambush.

^b The sisters of Meleager wept for him until Artemis turned them into guinea-fowl, hence called "meleagrides."

^c Olenos was an Aetolian town called after a king of that name who was a son of Zeus. The Ida referred to is the mountain in Crete, which boasted of having given birth to Zeus.

^d The Achelous.

dimb,^a so soon as the first bugles sounded : even so
 a slippery snake raises itself from the deep earth
 at the coaxing breath of the vernal sun, freed of its
 eld and the unsightly years put off, and gleams, a
 bright green danger, in the lush herbage ; unhappy
 the husbandman who meets its gaping mouth in the
 grass, and spoils its fangs of their new venom ! To
 him also the rumour of war brings present help of
 warriors from the Aetolian cities ; rocky Pylene
 heard the tidings, and Pleuron of Meleager, wept
 for by his sister-birds ; ^b steep Calydon, and Olenos
 whose Jove doth challenge Ide,^c and Chalcis, welcome
 haven from Ionian billows, and the river ^d whose face
 the athlete Hercules did mar : even yet scarce
 dares he raise his stricken visage from the waters'
 depth, but mourns with head sunk far below in his
 green cave, while the river-banks pant and sicken
 with dust. All these defend their bodies with
 bronze-bound targes, and bear fierce halberds in
 their hands, while native Mars stands erect upon
 their helms. Chosen youths surround the great-
 hearted son of Oeneus, high-spirited for battle and
 in all the glory of his well-known scars ; no meaner
 he in threatening ire than Polynices ; 'tis doubtful
 even for whom the war is waged.

But mightier comes thereon the Dorian ^e array
 new-armed, they whose numerous ploughs turn up
 thy banks, Lyrceus, and thy shores, Inachus, prince
 of Achæan streams—for no more tempestuous
 torrent flows forth from Persean ^f land, when he has
 drunk deep of Taurus ^g or the watery Pleiades, foam-

^a *i.e.*, Peloponnesian.

^f *i.e.*, Argive.

^g Taurus, the sign of the Zodiac, mentioned as rainy,
 because the Hyades were in it (*cf.* Plin. *N.H.* ii. 110).

spumeus et genero tumuit Iove—quos celer ambit 124
Asterion Dryopumque trahens Erasinus aristas,
et qui rura domant Epidauria—dexter Iaccho
collis, at Hennaeae Cereri negat—; avia Dyme
mittit opem densasque Pylos Neleia turmas; 125
nondum nota Pylos iuvenisque aetate secunda
Nestor, et ire tamen peritura in castra negavit.
hos agitat pulchraeque docet virtutis amorem
arduus Hippomedon; capiti tremit aerea cassis
ter niveum scandente¹ iuba, latus omne sub armis 130
ferrea suta terunt, umeros ac pectora late
flammeus orbis habet, perfectaue vivit in auro
nox Danai: sontes Furiarum lampade nigra
quingenta ardent thalami; pater ipse cruentis
in foribus laudatque nefas atque inspicit enses. 135
illum Palladia sonipes Nemeaeus ab arce
devehit arma pavens umbraeque immane volanti
implet agros longoque attollit pulvere campum.
non aliter silvas umeris et utroque refringens
pectore montano duplex Hylaeus ab antro 140
praecipitat: pavet Ossa vias, pecudesque feraeque
procubuerunt metu; non ipsis fratribus horror
afuit, ingenti donec Peneia saltu
stagna subit magnumque obiectus detinet amnem.

Quis numerum ferri gentisque et robora dictu 145
aequant mortale sonans? suus excit in arma

¹ ter niveum scandente *Pw*: nivea *N*, candente *Heinsius*.
D's Schol. has "triplici ordine."

^a Jupiter was the lover of Io, daughter of Inachus, and "Jove" is used for "rain"; cf. *Virg. Georg.* ii. 419 "maturis metuendus Jupiter arvis."

^b Where Proserpine was carried off by Pluto.

^c Danaus planned the murder of the fifty suitors of his daughters, who slew their husbands on the wedding night.

ing high and swollen with Jove, his daughter's lover ^a—they too whom swift Asterion encircles and Erasinus sweeping on his flood Dryopian harvests, and they who tame the fields of Epidaurus—favourable to Iacchus are those hill-sides, but they give denial to Ceres of Henna ^b—desolate Dyme sends aid, and Neleian Pylos her swarming squadrons; not yet renowned was Pylos, and Nestor was as yet in the prime of his second age, but would not join a host doomed to perish. These doth tall Hippomedon excite and teach the love of glorious valour; on his head a brazen helm doth shake with triple tier of snow-white plume, beneath his armour iron mail fits close upon his flanks, his shoulders and breast a wide flaming circle covers, whereon the night of Danaus ^c lives in the gold handiwork: the fifty guilty chambers blaze with the Furies' murky torch, the sire himself on the blood-stained threshold praises the crime and views the swords. A Nemean steed in terror of the fight bears the hero from the citadel of Pallas, ^d and fills the fields with the huge flying shadow, and the long trail of dust rises upon the plain. Not otherwise, crashing through the forests with shoulders and either breast, does twy-formed Hylaeus ^e speed headlong from his mountain cave; Ossa trembles at his going, and beasts and cattle fall in terror; yea, even his brethren are affrighted, till with a great leap he plunges into the waters of Peneus, and with thwarting bulk dams back the mighty flood.

Who could describe in mortal speech that numerous armament, its peoples and their valiant might?

^a There was a temple of Athena on the acropolis of Argos (Paus. ii. 24. 4).

^e One of the Centaurs.

antiquam Tiryntha deus ; non fortibus illa
 infecunda viris fama¹que immanis alumni
 degenerat, sed lapsa situ fortuna, neque addunt
 robur opes ; rarus vacuis habitator in arvis 150
 monstrat Cyclopum ductas sudoribus arces.
 dat tamen haec iuvenum tercentum pectora, vulgus
 innumerum bello, quibus haud ammenta nec enses
 triste micant : flavae capiti tergoque leonum
 exuviae gentilis honos, et pineus armat 155
 stipes, in exhaustis artantur tela pharetris.
 Herculeum paeana canunt, vastataque monstros
 omnia ; frondosa longum deus audit ab Oeta
 dat Nemea comites, et quas in proelia vires
 sacra Cleonaei cogunt vineta Molochi. 160
 gloria nota casae, foribus simulata salignis
 hospitis arma dei, parvoque ostenditur arvo,
 robur ubi et laxos qua reclinaverit artus
 ilice, qua cubiti sedeant vestigia terra.
 At pedes et toto despectans vertice bellum 165
 quattuor indomitae Capaneus erepta iuvenis
 terga superque rigens iniectu molis aenae
 versat onus ; squallet triplici ramosa corona
 Hydra recens obitu : pars anguibus aspera vivis
 argento caelata micat, pars arte reperta² 170
 conditur et fulvo moriens nigrescit³ in auro ;
 circum amnis torpens et ferro caerula Lerna.

¹ fama¹que P^ω : fama¹eve Baehrens, on the ground that this verb is never found with the ablative.

² reperta P^ω : reposta Deiter, retorta, repressa, etc., edd. Alton conj. pars aere perempta (i.e. "dead" as opp. to "dying"). Garrod conj. pars altera reptans. reperta must be corrupt, but no emendation seems convincing.

³ nigrescit P : ignescit ω, pallescet D.

^a Hercules.

^b The scene of his apotheosis.

Ancient Tiryns is roused by her own god ^a to arms, not barren of brave men, nor degenerate from her tremendous son's renown, but desolate and her day of fortune past, nor hath she the power that wealth can give; the scanty dweller in her empty fields points out the towers raised by the sweat of Cyclopean brows. Yet she sends three hundred manly hearts, a company undisciplined for war, without javelin-thongs or the surly gleam of swords; on their heads and shoulders the tawny spoil of lions, their tribe's adornment, a pinewood stake their weapon, and shafts crammed tight in inexhaustible quivers. They sing the paeon of Hercules and the world swept clear of monsters: the god listens from afar on leafy Oeta.^b Nemea gives them comrades and all the might that the sacred vineyards of Cleonaeon Molorchus summon to war. Well known is the glory of that cottage ^c; pictured upon its willow doors are the arms of the god who was its guest, and in the humble field 'tis shown where he laid his club, and under what holm-oak he reposed his limbs at ease, and where yet the ground bears traces of his lying.

But Capaneus, on foot and looking down by a whole head's height upon the host, wields the burden of four hides torn from the backs of untamed steers and stiffened above with a covering of massy bronze; there lies the Hydra with triple-branching crown, lately slain and foul in death: part, embossed in silver, glitters fierce with moving snakes, part by a cunning device is sunken, and grows dark in the death agony against the tawny gold; around, in dark-blue steel runs the torpid stream of Lerna.

^a The cottage of Molorchus at which Hercules stayed on the night before the slaying of the Nemean lion.

STATIUS

at laterum tractus spatiosaque pectora servat
 nexilis innumero Chalybum subtemine thorax,
 horrendum, non matris, opus ; galeaeque corusca 175
 prominet arce gigans ; atque uni missilis illi
 cuspide praefixa stat frondibus orba cupressus.
 huic parere dati, quos fertilis Amphigenia
 planaue Messene montosaue nutrit Ithome,
 quos Thryon et summis ingestum montibus Aepey, 180
 quos Helos et Pteleon, Getico quos flebile vati
 Dorion ; hic fretus doctas anteire canendo
 Aonidas mutos Thamyris damnatus in annos
 ore simul citharaque—quis obvia numina temnat ?—
 conticuit praeceps, qui non certamina Phoebi 185
 nosset et inlustres Satyro pendente Celaenas.

Iamque et fatidici mens expugnata fatiscit
 auguris ; ille quidem casus et dira videbat
 signa, sed ipsa manu cunctanti iniecerat arma
 Atropos obrueratque deum, nec coniugis absunt 190
 insidiae, vetitoque domus iam fulgurat auro.
 hoc aurum vati fata exitiale monebant
 Argolico ; scit et ipsa¹—nefas !—sed perfida coniunx
 dona viro mutare velit, spoliisque potentis
 imminet Argiae raptoque excellere cultu. 195
 illa libens—nam regum animos et pondera belli
 hac nutare videt, pariter ni providus heros
 militet—ipsa sacros gremio Polynicis amati
 exuerat cultus² haud maesta atque insuper addit :

¹ ipsa *Sandstroem* : ipse *Pw.*

² exuerat cultus *P* : deposuit nexus *ω.*

^a Marsyas, who strove with Phoebus on the flute, but, being defeated, was hung up and flayed by him.

His long flanks and spacious breast are guarded by a corselet woven of iron threads innumerable, a work inspiring terror, no mother's task; a giant rises from the summit of his flashing helm; his spear, that he alone can throw, is a cypress standing stripped of leaves and pointed with iron. Assigned in fealty to him are they whom fertile Amphigenia nourishes, and Messene's plain and mountainous Ithome, Thryon and Aepy high-piled on mountain-tops, Helos too and Pteleon and Dorion that bewails the Getic bard: here Thamyris made bold to surpass in song the skilled daughters of Aonia, but doomed to a life of silence fell on the instant mute with voice and harp alike—who may despise deities met face to face?—for that he knew not what it was to strive with Phoebus, nor how the hanging Satyr^a brought Celaenae fame.

And now even the fate-foretelling augur's resolve begins to weaken under strong assault; he saw indeed what should befall and the dread signs thereof, but Atropos herself had made violent attack upon his doubting will, and overwhelmed the god within him, nor is wifely treachery absent, and already the house sparkles with the forbidden gold. From that gold did the fates bode destruction to the Argive seer, yea, and she knew it—ah, impious crime!—but the perfidious wife would fain barter her husband for a gift, and yearns to gain the spoils of the princess Argia, and to excel her in the stolen finery. She not unwilling—for she sees that the spirit of the princes and the resolve for war must fail, should not the foreseeing hero join their enterprise—herself put off from her bosom the fatal ornament of her beloved Polynices, nor grieved thereat, but saith moreover:

“ non haec apta mihi nitidis ornatibus ” inquit, 206
 “ tempora, nec miserae placeant insignia formae
 te sine : sat dubium coetu solante timorem
 fallere et incultos aris adverrere crines.
 scilicet—infandum¹ —, cum tu cludare minanti
 casside ferratusque sonas, ego divitis aurum 205
 Harmoniae dotale geram ? dabit aptior ista
 fors deus, Argolicasque habitu praestabo maritas,
 cum regis coniunx, cum te mihi sospite templa
 votivis implenda choris ; nunc induat illa,
 quae petit et bellante potest gaudere marito.” 210
 sic Eriphylaeos aurum fatale penates
 inrupit scelerumque ingentia semina movit,
 et grave Tisiphone risit gavisia futuris.

Taenariis hic celsus equis, quam dispare coetu
 Cyllarus ignaro generarat Castore prolem, 215
 quassat humum ; vatem cultu Parnassia monstrant
 vellera : frondenti crinitur cassis oliva,
 albaque puniceas interplicat infula cristas.
 arma simul pressasque iugo moderatur habenas.
 hinc atque inde morae iaculis, et ferrea curru 220
 silva tremit ; procul ipse gravi metuendus in hasta
 eminet et clipeo victum Pythona coruscat
 huius Apollineae currum comitantur Amyclae,
 quos Pylos² et dubus Malea vitata carinis
 plaudentique habiles Caryae resonare Dianae, 225
 quos Pharis volucrumque parens Cythereia Messe,
 Taygetique phalanx et olonferi Eurotae

¹ infandum *P* : heu superi ω.

² Pylos *Pω* : Helos *Kohlmann*, who cp. *Hom.* Il. ii. 584 ;
Pylos has already been mentioned l. 125.

"No fit times these to deck myself in shining jewelry, nor without thee let me take delight in adorning my hapless beauty; enough to beguile my doubts and fears with the solace of my maidens, and trail my unkempt tresses at the altars. Shall I—oh! thought unspeakable!—shall I wear rich Harmonia's dower of gold, while thou art shut within thy threatening helmet, and dost clang in arms of steel? More fitly mayhap will heaven grant me that boon, and I outdo the Argolic brides in apparel, when I am queen indeed, and must fill the temples with votive choirs, upon thy safe return. Now let her put it on who desires it, and can rejoice while her husband is at war." Thus the fatal gold made entry to the chambers of Eriphyle, and set in motion the beginnings of great crimes, and Tisiphone laughed loud, exulting in what should come to pass.

Aloft behind Taenarian steeds, whom Cyllarus unknown to Castor had begotten on mares of meaner stock, he makes earth tremble; the adornment of Parnassian wool betrays the prophet, sprays of olive wreath his helmet, and the white fillet intertwines the scarlet crest. He handles at once his weapons and the reins held tight upon the yoke. On either side there is a shelter from darts, and an iron forest trembles on his chariot; far seen he stands, conspicuous and terrible with stern spear, and flashes the conquered Python on his shield. Amyclae, Apollo's town, bears his car company, and the bands of Pylos, and Malea shunned by doubting keels, and Caryae skilled to raise the hymn that wins Diana's applause, and Pharis and Cytherean Messe, mother of doves, the phalanx of Taygetus, and the hardy troop of swan-nurturing Eurotas. The

dura manus. deus ipse viros in pulvere crudo
 Arcas alit nudaeque modos virtutis et iras
 ingenerat ; vigor inde animis et mortis honorae 230
 dulce sacrum. gaudent natorum fata parentes
 hortanturque mori, deflent iamque omnis ephebum
 turba, coronato contenta est funere mater.
 frena tenent duplexque inserto missile nodo,
 exserti ingentes umeros, chlamys horrida pendet, 235
 et cono Ledaëus apex. non hi tibi solum,
 Amphiaræ, merent : auget resupina maniplos
 Elis, depressæ populus subit incola Pisæ,
 qui te, flave, natant terris, Alpheæ, Sicanis
 advena, tam longo non umquam infecte profundo. 240
 curribus innumeris late putria arva lacessunt
 et bellis armenta domant : ea gloria genti
 infando de more et fractas durat ab usque
 axibus Oenomai ; strident spumantia morsu
 vincula, et effossas niveus rigat imber harenas. 245
 Tu quoque Parrhasias ignara matre catervas—
 a rudis armorum, tantum nova gloria suadet !—,
 Parthenopææ, rapis ; saltus tunc forte remotos
 torva parens—neque enim hæc iuveni foret ire
 potestas—
 pacabat cornu gelidique aversa Lycaei. 250
 pulchrior haud ulli triste ad discrimen ituro
 vultus et egregiæ tanta indulgentia formæ ;
 nec desunt animi, veniat modo fortior ætas.
 quas non ille duces nemorum fluvisque dicata

^a Mercury, *cf.* Hor. *C.* 1. 10. 4.

^b *i.e.*, a crest of swan's feathers.

^c King of Elis, who challenged the suitors of his daughter Hippodamia to a chariot-race, and slew them when he defeated them ; he was finally defeated and slain himself by Pelops.

^d *i.e.*, Arcadian.

Arcadian god^a himself trains them in the dust of combat, and implants in them the ways of naked valour and warlike temper ; hence dauntless courage and the welcome consecration of a glorious death. Their parents rejoice in their children's fate and urge them on to die ; and while the whole band of youths makes lamentation, the mother is content with the wreath that crowns the victim. They hold the reins and two javelins with thong attached, bared are their mighty shoulders, from which a rough cloak hangs ; a Ledaean crest^b is on their helms. Not these alone, Amphiaraus, are in thy service : the slopes of Elis swell thy array, and low-lying Pisa's folk, who swim thy waters, yellow Alpheus, thou who farest to Sicanian lands, yet art never tainted by so long a passage through the deep. Countless chariots vex their crumbling fields far and wide, their beasts are broken to war : that glory of the race endures even from the impious ways and broken axles of Oenomaus^c ; the champed bits foam between the jaws, and the white spume bedews the churned earth.

Thou too, Parthenopaeus, unknown to thy mother—unschooled alas¹ in arms, such lure hath young ambition—speedest onward thy Parrhasian^d cohorts. Thy warlike parent,^e so it chanced—not otherwise could the boy have left her—was bringing peace with her bow to distant glades, and the farther slopes of cool Lycaeus. No fairer face was there of any marching to the grim hazard of war, none wins such favour for pre-eminent beauty ; nor lacks he courage, so he but come to sterner years. What forest-queens and spirits

^a Atalanta, a comrade of Diana, and so vowed to virginity, but Diana “forgave her the crime” of becoming the mother of Parthenopaeus (l. 258).

numina, quas magno non abstulit¹ igne Napaeas ? 25ē
 ipsam, Maenalia puerum cum vidit in umbra,
 Dianam, tenero signantem gramina passu,
 ignovisse ferunt comiti, Dictaeaeque tela
 ipsam et Amyclaeas umeris aptasse pharetras
 prosilit audaci Martis percussus amore, 260
 arma, tubas audire calens et pulvere belli
 flaventem sordere comam captoque referri
 hostis equo : taedet nemorum, titulumque nocentem
 sanguinis humani pudor est nescire sagittas.
 igneus ante omnes auro micat, igneus ostro, 265
 undantemque sinum nodis inrugat Hiberis,
 imbelli parma pictus Calydonia matris
 proelia ; trux laeva sonat arcus, et aspera plumis
 terga Cydonea corytos harundine pulsant
 electro pallens et iaspide clarus Eoa. 270
 cornipedem trepidos suetum praevertere cervos,
 velatum geminae deiectu lyncis et arma
 mirantem gravioris eri, sublimis agebat,
 dulce rubens viridique genas spectabilis aevo.
 Arcades huic veteres astris lunaque priores, 275
 agmina fida datis, nemorum quos stirpe rigenti
 fama satos, cum prima pedum vestigia tellus
 admirata tulit ; nondum arva domusque nec urbes
 conubiisve modus ; quercus laurique ferebant
 cruda puerperia, ac populos umbrosa creavit 280

¹ abstulit *P* : impulit *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, Cretan ; Crete was famous for bows and arrows.

^b The reference may, however, be to a steel cuirass (*cf.* Hor. *C.* i. 29. 15) fitting tightly upon a full undergarment.

^c The Arcadians were the most primitive people of ancient Greece, and were supposed to have been born originally from rocks or trees (*cf.* l. 340). For the quaint idea of ll. 282 *sqq.*

enshrined in rivers, what nymphs of the glade hath he not fired with consuming passion? Diana herself, when she saw the boy beneath the shade of Maenalus stepping youthful o'er the grass, forgave her comrade, so they say, and with her own hand fitted to his shoulders the Dictæan^a shafts and Amyclean quiver. Smitten by dauntless love of war he dashes to the front, burning to hear the clash of arms and bray of trumpets, to soil his fair hair with the dust of battle, and to ride home on a foeman's captive steed. He is weary of the woodlands, and ashamed that he knows not the arrows' baneful boast of human blood. Foremost he shines, ablaze with purple and gold, his streaming cloak furrowed by Iberian cords,^b and his innocent shield adorned with his mother's Calydonian battles; fierce sounds the bow at his left side, and on his back, plumed with feathery shafts, rattles the quiver set with pale electrum and brilliant Eastern jasper, full of Cydonian arrows. His charger, accustomed to outstrip the flying stags, was covered with two lynxes' hides, and marvelled at his armed master's heavier weight; him he loftily bestrode, comely to look upon from the pleasant flush of youth upon his cheeks. To him the Arcadians^c an ancient people, older than the moon and stars, give trusty cohorts; they were born, 'tis said, of the hard trunks of forest trees, when the wondering earth first bore the print of feet; not yet were fields or houses or cities or ordinance of marriage: oaks and laurels suffered rude child-birth, and the shady

cf. Lucretius, v. 973—

nec plangore diem magno solemque per agros
quaerebant pavidi palantes noctis in umbris,

i.e., wandered about in search of the sun that had set below the horizon.

fraxinus, et feta viridis puer excidit orno.
 hi lucis stupuisse vices noctisque feruntur
 nubila et occiduum longe Titana secuti
 desperasse diem. rarescunt alta colonis
 Maenala, Parthenium fugitur nemus, agmina bello 285
 Rhipaque et Stratie ventosaque donat Enispe.
 non Tegea, non ipsa deo vacat alite felix
 Cyllene templumque Aleae nemorale Minervae
 et rapidus Clitor et qui tibi, Pythie, Ladon
 paene socer, candensque iugis Lampia nivosis 290
 et Pheneos nigro Styga mittere credita Diti.
 venit et Idaeis ululatus aemulus Azan
 Parrhasique duces, et quae risistis, Amores,
 grata pharetrato Nonacria rura Tonanti,
 dives et Orchomenos pecorum et Cynosura ferarum.
 Aepyrtios idem ardor agros Psophidaque celsam 296
 vastat et Herculeo vulgatos robore montes
 monstri ferumque Erymanthon et aerisonum Stym-
 phalon.

Arcades hi, gens una viris, sed dissona cultu
 scinditur : hi Paphias myrtos a stirpe recurvant 300
 et pastoralis meditantur proelia trunco,
 his arcus, his tela sudas, his cassida crines
 integit, Arcadii morem tenet ille galeri,
 ille Lycaoniae rictu caput asperat ursae.
 hos belli coetus iurataque pectora Marti 305

^a He was father of Daphne.

^b A lake near the town of that name in Arcadia; the underground channels of the rivers were supposed to lead down to Hades.

^c Because there too Cybele was worshipped.

^d When he assumed the shape of Diana to gain the favours of Callisto.

mountain-ash peopled the earth, and the young babe fell from the pregnant ash-tree's womb. 'Tis said that, struck with terror at the change from light to murky darkness, they followed far the setting Titan, despairing of the day. The husbandmen grow few on high Maenalus, the forests of Parthenius are deserted, Rhipe and Stratie and windy Enispe give their troops to aid the war. Neither Tegea nor Cyllene blest by the winged god stand idle, nor Alea, woodland shrine of Minerva, nor swift Cltor, nor Ladon,^a almost, O Pythian, the father of thy bride ; nor yet Lampia with her shining snow-white ridges, nor Pheneos,^b believed to send down Styx to swarthy Dis. Azan, that can rival the howling mobs of Ida,^c came, and the Parrhasian leaders, and the Nonacrian countryside, wherein the Thunderer quiver-clad^d took delight, and furnished laughter for you, ye Loves, and Orchomenos rich in cattle, and Cynosura abounding in wild beasts. The same ardour lays bare the fields of Aepytus and lofty Psophis and the mountains famed for Hercules' might, Erymanthos home of monsters, and Stymphalos with its clanging bronze.^e All Arcadians these, one race of men, but sundered by differing customs : these bend back Paphian myrtle-saplings, and practise warfare with pastoral staves ; some have bows, some pikes for weapons ; some cover their hair with helmets, while that one keeps the fashion of the Arcadian hat, and another makes his head terrible with the jaws of a Lycaonian she-bear.^f This warlike gathering of hearts sworn true to Mars

^a Refers to the brazen rattle with which Hercules frightened the Stymphalian birds.

^f Such as Callisto, daughter of Lycaon, was turned into.

STATIUS

milite vicinae nullo iuvare Mycenae ;
funerae tunc namque dapes medique recursus
solis, et hic alii miscebant proelia fratres.

Iamque Atalantaeas implerat nuntius aures,
ire ducem bello totamque impellere natum 310
Arcadiam : tremuere gradus, elapsaque iuxta
tela ; fugit silvas perniciosior alite vento
saxa per et plenis obstantia flumina ripis,
qualis erat, correpta sinus et vertice flavum
crinem sparsa noto ; raptis velut aspera natis 315
praedatoris equi sequitur vestigia tigris
ut stetit adversisque impegit pectora frenis
—ille ad humum¹ pallens—: “ unde haec furibunda
cupido,

nate, tibi ? teneroque unde improba pectore virtus ?
tu bellis aptare viros, tu pondera ferre 320.
Martis et ensiferas inter potes ire catervas ?
quamquam utinam quires² ! nuper te pallida vidi,
dum premis obnixo venabula comminus apro,
poplite succiduo resupinum ac paene ruentem,
et ni curvato torsissem spicula cornu, 325
nunc ubi bella tibi ? nil te mea tela iuvabunt
nec teretes arcus, maculis nec discolor atris
hic, cui fidis, equus ; magnis conatibus instas,
vix Dryadum thalamis Erymanthiadumque furori
Nympharum mature puer. sunt omina vera : 330
mirabar, cur templa mihi tremuisse Dianae
nuper et inferior vultu dea visa, sacrisque
exuviae cecidere tholis ; hoc segnior arcus
difficilesque manus et nullo in vulnere certae.

¹ ille ad humum *Pw* : illa ad eum *Peyrared*.

² quires *Postgate* : vires *Pw* : vidi *Bentley*.

^a Atreus and Thyestes.

Mycenae, neighbour though she was, helped with no soldiery ; for then was the deadly banquet and the sun's midday withdrawing, and there, too, was a feud of warring brothers.^a

And now the tidings had filled the ears of Atalanta, that her son was going a captain to the war, and rousing all Arcadia ; her steps faltered and the darts fell by her side ; swifter than the winged wind she fled from the woodland, o'er rocks and brimming rivers that would stay her, just as she was, with snatched-up raiment and fair hair streaming behind her on the breeze ; even as a tigress, bereft of her cubs, fiercely tracks the horse of him that robbed her. When she halted and pressed her bosom on the reins that met her (he pale, with eyes downcast) : " Whence comes this mad desire, my son, whence this reckless valour in thy young breast ? Canst thou drill men to war, canst thou bear the burdens of Mars and go among the sword-bearing companies ? Yet would that thou wert able ! Lately I paled to see thee plying thy hunting-lance in close conflict with a struggling boar, forced back upon bent knee and almost fallen, and had I not drawn my bow and sped an arrow, where now would be thy wars ? Nought will my shafts avail thee, nor my shapely bows, nor this black-spotted steed in whom thou trustest ; mighty are the endeavours to which thou hastenest, and thou a boy scarce ripe for the embraces of Dryads or the passions of Erymanthian Nymphs. Omens tell true : I wondered why Diana's temple seemed to me of late to tremble, and the goddess herself to frown upon me, and why the votive spoils fell from her roof ; this it was that made my archery slack and my hands to falter and never to strike sure. Nay,

STATIUS

exspecta, dum maior honos, dum firmitus aevum, 335
 dum roseis venit umbra genis vultusque recedunt
 ore mei ; tunc bella tibi ferrumque, quod ardes,
 ipsa dabo, et nullo matris revocabere fletu.
 nunc refer arma domum ! vos autem hunc ire sinetis,
 Arcades, o saxis nimirum et robore nati ^p ” 340
 plura cupit ; fusi circum natusque ducesque
 solantur minuuntque metus, et iam horrida clangunt
 signa tubae. nequit illa pio dimittere natum
 complexu multumque duci commendat Adrasto.

At parte ex alia Cadmi Mavortia plebes, 345
 maesta ducis furis nec molli territa fama,
 quando his vulgatum descendere viribus Argos,
 tardius illa quidem regis causaque pudore,
 verum bella movet. nulli destringere ferrum
 impetus, aut umeros clipeo clausisse paterno 350
 dulce nec alipedum iuga comere, qualia belli
 gaudia ; delecti trepidas sine mente, sine ira
 promissere manus ; hic aegra in sorte parentem
 unanimum, hic dulces primaevae conjugis annos
 ingemit, et gremio miseros adcrevere natos. 355
 bellator nulli caluit deus ; ipsa vetusto
 moenia lapsa situ magnaevae Amphionis arces
 iam fessum senio nudant latus, et fide sacra
 aequatos caelo surdum atque ignobile muros
 firmat opus. tamen et Boeotis urbibus ultrix 360
 adspirat ferri rabies, nec regis iniqui
 subsidio, quantum socia pro gente moventur.

^a For the legend see l. 275 n.

wait till thy prowess be greater, thy years more firm, till the shadow come upon thy rosy cheeks and my likeness fade from off thy face. Then I myself will give thee the battles and the sword for which thou dost burn, and no mother's tears shall call thee back. Now take back thy weapons home! But you, will you suffer him to go to war, ye Arcadians, O born assuredly of rock and oak? ^a " More would she fain entreat; her son and the chieftains thronging round console her and lessen her fears, and already the bugles' horrid signal blares forth. She cannot loose her son from her loving embrace, and commends him earnestly to his leader Adrastus.

But in another region the Martian folk of Cadmus, dismayed by the madness of the king and terrified by news that is grave indeed—for 'tis spread abroad how Argos is making descent in force—tardily in truth for shame of the monarch and his cause, nevertheless prepare for war. None rush to draw the sword, or take pleasure in covering their shoulders with their father's shield or making trim the harness of wing-footed horses, delights such as war affords; despondent, without resolve or warlike temper, they vouchsafe a timorous aid; this one bewails a loving parent in his evil case, another his wife's pleasant youth and the hapless babes ripening in her womb. In none does the war-god wax hot; even the walls crumbling with age-long neglect and Amphion's mighty towers lay bare their worn and ancient sides, and a mean and unresponsive toil repairs those parapets once raised to heaven by the inspired harp. Yet the Boeotian cities are moved by the avenging lust of battle, and are stirred in behalf of their kindred race rather than to aid the unjust king.

ille velut pecoris lupus expugnator opimi,
pectora tabenti sanie gravis hirtaque saetis
ora cruentata deformis hiantia lana, 365
decedit stabulis huc illuc turbida versans
lumina, si duri comperta clade sequantur
pastores, magnique fugit non inscius ausi.

Adecumulat crebros turbatrix Fama pavores :
hic iam dispersos errare Asopide ripa 370
Lernaeos equites ; hic te, bacchate Cithaeron,
ille rapi Teumeson ait noctisque per umbras
nuntiat excubiis vigiles arsisse Plataeas.
nam Tyrios sudare lares et sanguine Dirce
inriguam fetusque novos iterumque locutam 375
Sphinga petris, cui non et scire licentia passim
et vidisse fuit ? novus his super anxia turbat
corda metus : sparsis subito correpta canistris
silvestris regina chori decurrit in aequum
vertice ab Ogygio trifidamque huc tristis et illuc 380
lumine sanguineo pinum disiectat et ardens
erectam attonitis implet clamoribus urbem :
“omnipotens Nysae pater, cui gentis avitae
pridem lapsus amor, tu nunc horrente sub arcto
bellica ferrato rapidus quatis Ismara thyrsos 385
pampineumque iubes nemus inreptare Lycurgo,
aut tumidum Gangen aut claustra novissima Rubrae
Tethyos Eoasque domos flagrante triumpho
perfuris, aut Hermi de fontibus aureis exis :

^a *i.e.*, Theban ; so also “ Ogygian,” line 380.

^b The leader of the Bacchanals, or women that in Bacchic frenzy roamed the hills round about Thebes.

^c A mountain-city in India, according to some legends the birthplace of Bacchus ; Oriental triumphs play a large part in the Dionysian legend.

^d King of Thrace, who resisted Bacchus and his vines.

Like is he to a wolf that has forced an entrance to a rich fold of sheep, and now, his breast all clotted with foul corruption and his gaping bristly mouth unsightly with blood-stained wool, hies him from the pens, turning this way and that his troubled gaze, should the angry shepherds find out their loss and follow in pursuit, and flees all conscious of his bold deed.

Disturbing Rumour heaps panic upon panic : one says that scattered cavalry of Lerna wander upon Asopus' bank, one tells of thy capture, Cithaeron of the revels, another reports Teumesos taken, and Plataeae's watch-fires burning through the darkness of the night. And to whom throughout the land hath not knowledge, yea sight been granted, of the Tyrian^a walls a-sweat and Dirce stained with blood, of monstrous births and Sphinx yet once more speaking from her rock? And to crown all, a new fear confounds their anxious hearts : of a sudden the queen of the woodland dance^b is seized by frenzy, and scattering the sacred baskets runs down to the plain from the Ogygian heights, and bloodshot-eyed waves fiercely to and fro a triple pine-torch, and fills the alarmed city with wild distracted cries : " Almighty Sire of Nysa,^c who long hast ceased to love thy ancestral nation, swift-borne beneath the frozen North thou art shaking warlike Ismara now with thine iron-pointed thyrsus, and bidding the vine-groves creep over Lycurgus'^d realm, or thou art rushing in mad and flaring triumph by swelling Ganges and the farthest confines of red Tethys^e and the Eastern lands, or issuing golden from the

^a *i.e.*, what the ancients called the Red Sea, *viz.* the Persian Gulf.

STATIUS

at tua progenies, positis gentilibus armis 396
 quae tibi festa¹ litant, bellum lacrimasque metumque
 cognatumque nefas, iniusti munera regni,
 pendimus. aeternis potius me, Bacche, pruinis
 trans et Amazonis ululatum Caucason armis
 siste ferens, quam monstra ducum stirpemque pro-
 fanam 395

eloquar. en urges; alium tibi, Bacche, furorem
 iuravi: similes video concurrere tauros;
 idem ambobus honos unusque ab origine sanguis;
 ardua conlatis obnixi cornua miscent
 frontibus alternaque truces moriuntur in ira. 400
 tu peior, tu cede,² nocens qui solus avita
 gramina communemque petis defendere montem.
 a miseri morum! bellastis sanguine tanto,
 et saltum dux alter habet" sic fata gelatis
 vultibus et Baccho iam demigrante quievit 405

At trepidus monstro et variis terroribus impar
 longaevis rex vatis opem tenebrasque sagaces
 Tiresiae, qui mos incerta paventibus, aeger
 consult. ille deos non larga caede iuvenum,
 non alacri pinna aut verum salientibus³ extis, 410
 nec tripode implicito numerisque sequentibus astra,
 turea nec supra volitante altaria fumo
 tam penitus, durae quam Mortis limite manes
 elicitis patuisse refert, Lethaeaeque sacra
 et mersum Ismeni subter confinia ponto 415

¹ festa *P*ω; bella *D*.

² cede *P*ω; caede *Baehrens*.

³ salientibus *P*: spirantibus *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, the thyrsus. "Thy progeny," because Bacchus was the guardian deity of Thebes.

^b "parat" must be taken both with "Lethaeae sacra" and with "ducem," *i.e.*, Laius; "miscentis" is intrans.

Springs of Hermus. But we, thy progeny, have laid aside our country's weapons^a that do thee festal honour, and have our portion of war and tears, and terror and kindred crime, the cruel burdens of this unrighteous reign. Rather, O Bacchus, take and set me among the eternal frosts, beyond Caucasus that rings with the war-cry of the Amazons, than that I should tell the horrors of our rulers and their unnatural brood. Lo ! thou drivest me ! far different was the frenzy I vowed to thee, O Bacchus : I behold two similar bulls engage, alike in honour and sharing one inherited blood ; with butting foreheads and lofty horns they close in fierce struggle, and perish in the violence of their mutual wrath. Thou art the villain ! do thou give way, who wrongfully seekest all alone to hold ancestral pastures and the hills ye both do own. Ah ! miserable and wicked ! such bloodshed have your wars cost you, and another champion is master of your meadow." So spake she, and as the god withdrew his presence fell mute with ice-cold face.

But the king, affrighted by the portent and a prey to various terrors, in sick despair—such is the way of those who fear they know not what—seeks aid from the long-lived seer and the clear-sighted blindness of Tiresias. He replies that heaven shows not its will so clearly by lavish slaughter of steers or numble feathered wing or the truthful leap of entrails, not by means of garlanded tripod or star-determined numbers, or by the smoke that hovers about the altar's frankincense, as by the ghosts called up from Death's stern barrier ; then he prepares the rites of Lethe,^b and makes ready beforehand to evoke the monarch sunk below the confines of Ismenos where

STATIUS

miscentis parat ante ducem, circumque bidentum
visceribus laceris et odori sulphuris aura
graminibusque novis et longo murmure purgat.

Silva capax aevi validaque incurva senecta,
aeternum intonsae frondis, stat pervia nullis 420
solibus ; haud illam brumae minuere, Notusve
ius habet aut Getica Boreas impactus ab Ursa.
subter operta quies, vacuusque silentia servat
horror et exclusae pallet male lucis imago.
nec caret umbra deo : nemori Latonia cultrix 425
additur ; hanc piceae cedrique et robore in omni
effictam sanctis occultat silva tenebris.
huius inaspectae luco stridere sagittae
nocturnique canum gemitus, ubi limina patruī
effugit inque novae melior redit ora Dianae ; 430
aut ubi fessa iugis, dulcisque altissima somnos
lux movet, hic late iaculis circum undique fixis
effusam pharetra cervicem excepta quiescit.
extra immane patens tellus Mavortia campi,
fetus ager Cadmo. durus qui vomere primo 435
post consanguineas acies sulcosque nocentes
ausus humum versare et mollia sanguine prata
eruit ; ingentes infelix terra tumultus
lucis adhuc medio solaque in nocte per umbras
exspirat, nigri cum vana in proelia surgunt 440
terrigenae ; fugit incepto tremibundus ab arvo
agricola insanique domum rediere iuvenci.

It mingles with the deep, and makes purgation all around with the torn entrails of sheep and the strong smell of sulphur, and with fresh herbs and the long mutterings of prayers.

There stands a wood, enduring of time, and strong and erect in age, with foliage aye unshorn nor pierced by any suns ; no cold of winter has injured it, nor has the South wind power thereon nor Boreas swooping down from the Getic Bear. Beneath is sheltered quiet, and a vague shuddering awe guards the silence, and the phantom of the banished light gleams pale and ominous. Nor do the shadows lack a divine power : Latonia's haunting presence is added to the grove ; her effigies wrought in pine or cedar and wood of every tree are hidden in the hallowed gloom of the forest. Her arrows whistle unseen through the wood, her hounds bay nightly, when she flies from her uncle's threshold and resumes afresh Diana's kindlier shape. Or when she is weary from her ranging on the hills, and the sun high in heaven invites sweet slumber, here doth she rest with head flung back carelessly on her quiver, while all her spears stand fixed in the earth around. Outside, of vast extent, stretches the Martian plain, the field that bore its harvest to Cadmus. Hardy was he who first after the kindred warfare and the crime of those same furrows dared with the ploughshare till the soil and upturned the blood-soaked meads ; even yet the accursed earth breathes mighty tumults at midday and in the lonely night's dim shadows, when the black sons of earth arise to phantom combat : with trembling limbs the husbandman flees and leaves the field unfinished, and his oxen hie them to their stalls, distraught.

STATIUS

Hic senior vates—Stygiis adcommoda quippe
 terra sacris, vivoque placent sola pingua tabo—
 velleris obscuri pecudes armentaque sisti 445
 atra monet, quaecumque gregum pulcherrima cervix
 ducitur; ingemuit Dirce maestusque Cithaeron,
 et nova clamosae stupuere silentia valles.
 tum fera caeruleis intexit cornua sertis
 ipse manu tractans, notaeque in limite silvae 450
 principio largos noviens tellure cavata
 inclinat Bacchi latices et munera verpi
 lactis et Actaeos imbres suadumque cruorem
 manibus; adgeritur, quantum bibit arida tellus.
 trunca dehinc nemora advolvunt, maestusque sacerdos
 tris Hecatae totidemque satis Acheronte nefasto 456
 virginibus iubet esse focus; tibi, rector Avernī,
 quamquam infossus humo superat tamen agger in'
 auras
 pineus; hunc iuxta cumulo minor ara profundae
 erigitur Cererī; frontes atque omne cupressus 460
 intexit plorata latus. iamque ardua ferro
 signati capita et frugum libamine puro
 in vulnus cecidere greges; tunc innuba Manto
 exceptum pateris praelibat sanguen, et omnes
 ter circum acta pyras sancti de more parentis 465
 semineces fibras et adhuc spirantia reddit
 viscera, nec rapidas cunctatur frondibus atris
 subiectare faces. atque ipse sonantia flammis
 virgulta et tristes crepuisse ut sensit acervos
 Tiresias—illi nam plurimus ardor anhelat 470
 ante genas impletque cavos vapor igneus orbes,—
 exclamat—tremuere rogi et vox terruit¹ ignem:—

¹ terruit *P*: impulit ω.

^a Honey, for which Hymettus in Attica was famous.

• Here the aged seer—for well suited is the ground to Stygian rites, and the soil, rich with living gore, delighted him—bids dark-fleeced sheep and black oxen be set before him, all the finest heads that the herds can show; Dirce and gloomy Cithaeron wailed aloud, and the echoing valleys shuddered at the sudden silence. Then he entwined their fierce horns with wreaths of dusky hue, handling them himself, and first at the edge of that well-known wood he nine times spills lavish draughts of Bacchus into a hollowed trench, and gifts of vernal milk and Attic rain^a and propitiatory blood to the shades below; so much is poured out as the dry earth will drink. Then they roll tree trunks thither, and the sad priest bids there be three altar-fires for Hecate and three for the maidens born of cursed Acheron; for thee, lord of Avernus, a heap of pinewood though sunk into the ground yet towers high into the air; next to this an altar of lesser bulk is raised to Ceres of the underworld; in front and on every side the cypress of lamentation intertwines them. And now, their lofty heads marked with the sword and the pure sprinkled meal, the cattle fell under the stroke; then the virgin Manto, catching the blood in bowls, makes first libation, and moving thrice round all the pyres, as her holy sire commands, offers the half-dead tissues and the yet living entrails, nor delays to set the devouring fire to the dark foliage. And when Tiresias heard the branches crackling in the flames and the grim piles roaring—for the burning heat surges before his face, and the fiery vapour fills the hollows of his eyes—he exclaimed, and the pyres trembled, and the flames cowered at his voice :

STATIUS

" Tartareae sedes et formidabile regnum
 Mortis inexpletae, tuque, o saevissime fratrum,
 cui servire dati manes aeternaque sontum 475
 supplicia atque imi famulatur regia mundi,
 solvite pulsanti loca muta et inane severae
 Persephones vulgusque cava sub nocte repostum
 elicite, et plena redeat Styga portitor alno.
 fert simul gressus, nec simplex manibus esto 480
 in lucem remeare modus ; tu separe coetu
 Elysios, Persei,¹ pios, virgaque potenti
 nubilus Arcas agat ; contra per crimina functis.
 qui plures Erebo pluresque e sanguine Cadmi,
 angue ter excusso et flagranti praevia taxo, 485
 Tisiphone, dux pande diem, nec lucis egentes
 Cerberus occursu capitum detorqueat umbras."

Dixerat, et pariter senior Phoebeaque virgo
 erexere animos ; illi formidine nulla,
 quippe in corde deus, solum timor obruit ingens 490
 Oedipodioniden, vatisque horrenda canentis
 nunc umeros nunc ille manus et vellera pressat
 anxius inceptisque velit desistere sacris
 qualis Gaetulae stabulantem ad confraga silvae
 venator longo motum clamore leonem 495
 exspectat firmans animum et sudantia nisu
 tela premens ; gelat ora pavor gressusque tremiscunt,

¹ Persei *Q* : persae (-sae) *Pw*.

^a Hades, or Pluto, was the brother of Zeus and Poseidon ; they obtained sky and sea respectively, while he had to be content with the underworld.

“Abodes of Tartarus and awful realm of insatiable Death, and thou, most cruel of the brothers,^a to whom the shades are given to serve thee, and the eternal punishments of the damned obey thee, and the palace of the underworld, throw open in answer to my knocking the silent places and empty void of stern Persephone, and send forth the multitude that lurk in hollow night; let the ferryman row back across the Styx with groaning bark. Haste ye all together, nor let there be for the shades but one fashion of return to the light; do thou, daughter of Perses,^b and the cloud-wrapt Arcadian with rod of power lead in separate throng the pious denizens of Elysium; but for those who died in crime, who in Erebus, as among the seed of Cadmus, are most in number, be thou their leader, Tisiphone, go on before with snake thrice brandished and blazing yew-branch, and throw open the light of day, nor let Cerberus interpose his heads, and turn aside the ghosts that lack the light.”

He spoke, and together the aged man and Phoebus' maiden waited in rapt attention. Nought feared they, for their hearts were inspired of the god; only the son of Oedipus was overcome by a great terror, and in agony he grasps, now the shoulders, now the hands and sacred fillets of the seer as he chants his awful strain, and would fain leave the rites unfinished. Even so a hunter awaits a lion roused by long shouting from his lair in the brushwood of a Gaetolian forest, steeling his courage and holding his spear in a perspiring grip; his face is frozen in terror and his steps tremble; “what beast approaches?” he

^b He was brother of Circe and Aeetes. Perseis is Hecate.

quis veniat quantusque, sed horrida signa frementis-
accipit et caeca metitur murmura cura. 499

Atque hic Tiresias nondum adventantibus umbris :
" testor " ait, " divae, quibus hunc saturavimus ignem
laevaue convulsae dedimus carchesia terrae.

iam nequeo tolerare moram. cassusne sacerdos
audior ? an, rabido iubeat si Thessala cantu.
ibitis et Scythicis quotiens medicata¹ venenis 505

Colchis aget, trepido pallebunt Tartara motu :
nostri cura minor, si non attollere bustis
corpora nec plenas antiquis ossibus urnas
egerere et mixtos caelique Erebiue sub unum
funestare deos libet aut exsanguia ferro 510

ora sequi atque aegras functorum carpere fibras ?
ne tenues annos nubemque hanc frontis opacae
spernute, ne, moneo ; et nobis saevire facultas.

novimus et quidquid dici noscique timetis,
et turbare Hecaten, ni te, Thymbraee, vererer 515
et triplicis mundi summum, quem scire nefastum.

illum—sed taceo : prohibet tranquilla senectus.
iamque ego vos "—avide subicit Phoebeia Manto :
" audiris, genitor, vulgusque exsanguie propinquat.
panditur Elysium chaos, et telluris opertae 520

dissiliit umbra capax, silvaeque et nigra patescunt
flumina, liventes Acheron eiecat harenas.

¹ medicata *P* : armata *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, if I care not to practise *evil* rites.

^b It is not clear whom or what Statius means by this mysterious phrase. Cf. Lucan, *Phars.* vi. 743, where a similar Power is appealed to. The Scholiast identifies with the Demiurgus, or Creator, who appears in some philosophical systems (Orphic, Gnostic, Plato's *Timaeus*), but more probably Statius is using the language of magical formulae, in which such invocations as "highest," "greatest," "king," without any particular application are common. Cf. the

wonders, and "how mighty?" and he hears the roar that gives ominous signal, and measures the growing sound in blind anxiety.

Then Tiresias, as the ghosts did not yet draw nigh: "I bear you witness, goddesses, for whom we have drenched these flames and poured propitious goblets upon the rent earth, I can endure delay no further. Am I heard in vain, priest though I be? Or, if a hag of Thessaly bid you with her frenzied chant, will ye then go, or so often as a Colchian witch drives you with Scythian drugs and poisons, will Tartarus grow pale and stir affrighted: but of me have ye less regard, if I care not to raise bodies from the tomb, and bring forth urns crammed with ancient bones, and profane the gods of heaven and Erebus alike, or hunt with the sword the bloodless faces of the dead and pluck out their sickly tissues?"^a Despise not these frail years nor the cloud that is upon my darkened brow, despise it not, I warn you! I, too, can vent my wrath. I know the name whose knowing and whose speaking ye so dread, even Hecate I can confound, feared I not thee, O Thymbraean, and the high lord of the triple world,^b who may not be known. Him—but I am silent; peaceful old age forbids. Now will I——" but Manto, votary of Phoebus, eagerly cries: "Thou art heard, O father, the pale host draws nigh. The Elysian void is flung open, the spacious shadows of the hidden region are rent, the groves and black rivers lie clear to view, and Acheron belches forth noisome mud. Smoky Phlegethon

Graeco-Egyptian magic spells edited by Wessely (*Griech. Zauberpapyri*, 1888), or by Eitrem (*Pap. Osloenses*, 1925). Typhon (= Seti) is frequently called on in similar language.

fumidus atra vadis Phlegethon incendia volvit,
 et Styx discretis interflua manibus obstat.
 ipsum pallentem solio circumque ministras 525
 funestorum operum Eumenidas Stygiaeque severos
 Iunonis thalamos et torva cubilia cerno
 in speculis Mors atra sedet dominoque silentes
 adnumerat populos ; maior superimminet ordo.
 arbiter hos dura versat Cortynius urna 530
 vera minis poscens adigitque expromere vitas
 usque retro et tandem poenarum lucra fateri.
 quid tibi monstra Erebi, Scyllas et inane furentes
 Centauros solidoque intorta adamante Gigantum
 vincula et angustam centeni Aegaeonis umbram ? ”
 “ Immo ” ait, “ o nostrae regimen viresque senectae.
 ne volgata mihi. quis enim remeabile saxum 537
 fallentesque lacus Tityonque alimenta volucrum
 et caligantem longis Ixiona gyris
 nesciat ? ipse etiam, melior cum sanguis, opertas 540
 inspexi sedes, Hecate ducente, priusquam
 obruit ora deus totamque in pectora lucem
 detulit. Argolicas magis huc adpelle precando
 Thebanasque animas ; alias avertere gressus
 lacte quater sparsas maestoque excedere luco, 545
 nata, iube ; tum qui vultus habitusque, quis ardor
 sanguinis adfusi, gens utra superbior adsit,
 dic agedum nostramque mone per singula noctem.”
 Iussa facit carmenque serit, quo dissipat umbras,
 quo reciet sparsas ; qualis, si crimina demas, 550

^a *i.e.*, Proserpine.

^b Minos.

rolls down his streams of murky flame, and Styx interfluent sets a barrier to the sundered ghosts. Himself I behold, all pale upon his throne, with Furies ministering to his fell deeds about him, and the remorseless chambers and gloomy couch of Stygian Juno.^a Black Death sits upon an eminence, and numbers the silent peoples for their lord ; yet the greater part of the troop remains. The Gortynian judge ^b shakes them in his inexorable urn, demanding the truth with threats, and constrains them to speak out their whole lives' story and at last confess their extorted gains. Why should I tell thee of Hell's monsters, of Scyllas and the empty rage of Centaurs, and the Giants' twisted chains of solid adamant, and the diminished shade of hundredfold Aegaeon ? " Even so," said he, " O guide and strength of my old age, tell me not things well known. Who knows not the aye-returning rock, and the deceiving waters, and Tityos food of vultures, and Ixion swooning on the long circlings of the wheel ? I myself in the years of stronger manhood beheld the hidden realms with Hecate as my guide, before heaven whelmed my vision, and drew all my light within my mind. Rather summon thou hither with thy prayers the Argive and the Theban souls ; the rest, my daughter, bid thou with milk four times sprinkled to avert their steps, and to leave the dreary grove. Then tell me, pray, the dress and countenance of each, how great their desire for the spilled blood, which folk draw nigh more haughtily, and thus of each several thing inform my darkness."

She obeys, and weaves the charm wherewith she disperses the shades and calls them back when scattered ; potent (but without their crimes) as the

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Colchis et Aeaeo simulatrix litore Circe.
 tunc his sacrificum dictis adfata parentem :
 " primus sanguineo submittit inertia Cadmus
 ora lacu, iuxtaque virum Cythereia proles
 insequitur, geminusque bibit¹ de vertice serpens. 555
 terrigenae comites illos, gens Martia, cingunt,
 quis² aevi mensura dies, manus omnis in armis,
 omnis et in capulo ; prohibent obstantque ruuntque
 spirantum rabie, nec tristi incumbere fossae
 cura, sed alternum sitis exhaustire cruorem. 560
 proxima natarum manus est fletique nepotes.
 hic orbam Autonoe et anhelam cernimus Ino
 respectantem arcus et ad ubera dulce prementem
 pignus et oppositis Semelen a ventre lacertis.
 Penthea iam fractis genetrix Cadmeia thyrsis 565
 iamque remissa deo pectusque adaper³ta³ cruentum
 insequitur planctu ; fugit ille avia Lethes
 et Stygios super usque lacus, ubi mitior⁴ illum
 flet pater et lacerum componit corpus Echion
 tristem nosco Lycum dextramque in terga reflexum
 Aeoliden, umero iactantem funus onusto. 571
 necdum ille aut habitus aut versae crimina formae
 mutat Aristaeo genitus : frons aspera cornu,
 tela manu, reicitque canes in vulnus hiantes.

¹ insequitur geminusque bibit *P*: effluit amborum geminus
ω. Cf. x. 134, xi. 490.

² quis *L Nauke*: his *P ω*.

³ adaper³ta *Gronovius*: adoper³ta *P ω*.

⁴ mitior *ω*: ianitor *P*: *Garrod conj.* inaniter.

^a Referring to her power of changing men into beasts (lit.
 "disguising" them as beasts)

^b Harmonia, wife of Cadmus. They were changed into
 serpents.

Colchian maiden, or the enchantress^a Circe on the Aeaeon strand. Then with these words she addressed her priestly sire: "First from the blood-red lake doth Cadmus raise his strengthless head, and the daughter of Cytherea^b follows hard upon her spouse, and from their head twin serpents drink. The earth-born company, seed of Mars, throng round them, whose span of life one day did measure, and every hand is on its weapon, yea, on the sword-hilt; they repel and bar approach, and rush to combat with the fury of living men, nor care they to stoop to the gloomy trench, but thirst to drain each other's blood. Near by is a band of Cadmus' daughters and the sons they mourned. Here we behold bereaved Autonoe^c and panting Ino, looking back at the bow and pressing her sweet pledge to her bosom, and Semele with arms held out to protect her womb. With shivered wands and bosom bare and bleeding, the frenzy of the god now spent, doth his mother, Cadmus' daughter, follow Pentheus with wailing cries; but he fleeth by Lethe's pathless region even beyond the Stygian lakes, where his kindlier sire Echion weeps over him and tends his mangled body. Sad Lycus^d too, I recognize, and the son of Aeolus,^e his right arm bent behind him, and a corpse thrown upon his laden shoulder. Nor yet doth that one change his appearance or the reproach of his transformation, even Aristaeus' son^f: the horns roughen his brow, while spear in hand he repels the hounds agape to

^a Mother of Actaeon (iii. 201). She and Ino, Semele and Agave (565) were all daughters of Cadmus.

^d A Theban king, slain by Hercules.

^e Athamas, who slew his son Learchus.

^f Actaeon.

ecce autem magna subit invidiosa caterva 575
 Tantalus et tumido percenset funera luctu,
 nil deiecta malis ; iuvat effugisse deorum
 numina et insanae plus iam permittere linguae "

Talia dum patri canit intemerata sacerdos.
 illus elatis tremefacta adsurgere vittis 580
 cantus tenuesque impelli sanguine vultus.
 nec iam firmanti baculo nec virgine fida
 nititur, erectusque solo "desiste canendo,
 nata" ait, "externae satis est mihi lucis, inertes
 discedunt nebulae, et vultum niger exsilit¹ aer. 585
 umbrisne an supero dimissus Apolline complet
 spiritus ? en video quaecumque audita. sed ecce
 maerent Argolici delecto lumine manes !
 torvus Abas Proetusque nocens mitisque Phoroneus
 truncatusque Pelops et saevo pulvere sordens 590
 Oenomaus largis umectant imbribus ora.
 auguror hinc Thebis belli meliora. Quid autem
 hi grege condenso, quantum arma et vulnera mon-
 strant,

pugnaces animae, nobis in sanguine multo
 oraque pectoraque et falso clamore levatas 595
 intendunt sine pace manus ? rex, fallor, an hi sunt
 quinquaginta illi ? cernis Chthoniumque Chrominque
 Phegeaque et nostra praesignem Maeona lauro.
 ne saevite, duces, nihil hic mortalibus ausum,
 credite, consiliis : hos ferrea neverat annos 600

¹ exsilit *Alton* : exuit *Pw*, exserit *Lachmann*, who *cp.*
Silv. v. 3. 104.

^a Niobe.

^b Pelops was said to have been cut up and boiled by his
 father Tantalus as a dish for the gods ; they, however, put
 550

rend him. But lo ! with numerous train comes the jealous Tantalid,^a and proud in her grief counts o'er the bodies, nought humbled by her woes ; she rejoices to have escaped the power of heaven, and now to give freer rein to her mad tongue."

While the chaste priestess thus recounts the tale to her father, his hoary locks trembling rise erect with lifted chaplet, and his pale visage throbs with a rush of blood. No longer rests he on the supporting staff or faithful maiden, but standing upright cries : " Cease thy song, my daughter, enough have I of external light, the sluggish mists depart, black night flees from my face. Comes it from the shades or from Apollo on high, this flooding inspiration ? Lo ! I behold all that thou didst tell me of. Behold ! here mourn the Argive ghosts with eyes downcast ! grim Abas, guilty Proetus and gentle Phoroneus, and Pelops maimed^b and Oenomaus soiled with cruel dust, all bedew their faces with plenteous tears. Hence do I prophesy for Thebes a favouring issue of the war. But what means this dense throng of warrior-souls, for such their wounds and weapons prove them ? Why show they gory faces and breasts, and with unsubstantial clamour raise and shake at me threatening arms ? Do I err, O king, or are these that band of fifty^c ? Chthonius thou dost behold, and Chromis and Phegeus and Maeon distinguished by my laurel. Rage not, ye chieftains, no mortal, believe me, dared that enterprise ; 'twas iron Atropos span you those destined years.

him together again, with the exception of one shoulder, which was replaced by one of ivory.

^c *i e.*, the fifty who were sent by Eteocles to lie in wait for Tydeus, but slain by him, *cf.* ii. 527 ff.

Atropos existis casus : bella horrida nobis,
atque iterum Tydeus." dicit, vittaque ligatis
frondibus instantes abigit monstratque cruorem.

Stabat inops comitum Cocyti in litore maesto
Laius, immitti quem iam deus ales Averno 605
reddiderat, dirumque tuens obliqua nepotem—
noscit enim vultu—non ille aut sanguinis haustus,
cetera ceu plebes, aliumve accedit ad imbrem,
immortale odium spirans. sed prolicet ultro
Aonius vates. "Tyriae dux inclyte Thebes, 610
cuius ab interitu non ulla Amphionis arces
vidit amica dies, o iam satis ulte cruentum
exitium et multum placata minoribus umbra,
quos miseranda fugis ? iacet ille in funere longo,
quem fremis, et iunctae sentit confinia mortis, 615
obsitus exhaustos paedore et sanguine vultus
eiectusque die : sors leto durior omni,
crede mihi ! quatenam immeritum vitare nepotem
causa tibi ? confer vultum et satiare litanti
sanguine venturasque vices et funera belli 620
pande vel infensus vel res miserate tuorum.
tunc ego te optata vetitam transmittere Lethen
puppe dabo placidumque pia tellure reponam
et Stygiis mandabo deis." mulcetur honoris
muneribus tingitque genas, dein talia reddit : 625
"cur tibi versanti manes, aequaeve sacerdos,

^a The ghosts were to drink of the blood which would enable them to speak of the future. In fact only Laius drinks; cf. line 625, where "tingit genas" means that the invigorating blood makes his cheeks ruddy and lifelike

^b Laius in Bk. II. (init.) had been brought from the underworld to appear to Eteocles in a dream.

^c i.e., Oedipus, his son, who slew him.

Ye have fulfilled your fate ; for us cruel war remains, and Tydeus yet again." He spake, and as they swarmed upon his wool-bound chaplets he drove them off and pointed them to the blood.^a

Reft of his comrade ghosts stood Laius on Cocytus' dreary strand—for already had the winged god restored him to unpitying Avernus^b—and glancing sidelong at his dire grandson, for he knew him by his face, came not like the rest of the multitude to drink the blood or the other outpourings, but breathed immortal hatred. But the Aonian seer delays not to lure him forward : " Renowned prince of Tyrian Thebes, since whose death no day has looked with kindly aspect on Amphion's citadel, O thou who hast now enough avenged thy bloody murder, O shade to whom thy issue have made full atonement, whom dost thou fly, unhappy one ? He^c against whom thou ragest lies a living corpse, and feels Death joined with him in linked companionship, his sunken visage besmeared with blood and filth, and all the light of day put out Trust me, 'tis a fate far worse than any dying ! What cause hast thou to shun thy innocent grandson ? Turn thy gaze hither, and take thy fill of sacrificial blood ; then tell the chances that shall be, and the war's victims, whether thou art in hostile mood or pityest thy kindred's fortunes. Then will I grant thee to cross forbidden Lethe in the bark thou dost desire, and set thee again at peace in the blessed land, in the safe keeping of the gods of Styx." Soothed is he by the proffered honour, and brings the colour to his cheeks,^d then thus replies : " Why, when thou wert marshalling the spirits, O prophet equal to me

^a See note a.

lectus ego augurio tantisque potissimus umbris,
 qui ventura loquar ? satis est meminisse priorum.
 nostrane praeclari, pudeat, consulta nepotes
 poscitis ? illum, illum sacris adhibete nefastis, 630
 qui laeto fodit ense patrem, qui semet in ortus
 vertit et indignae regerit sua pignora matri.
 et nunc ille deos Furiarumque atra fatigat
 concilia et nostros rogat haec in proelia manes.
 quodsi adeo placui deflenda in tempora vates, 635
 dicam equidem, quo me Lachesis, quo torva Megaera
 usque sinunt : bellum, innumero venit undique bellum
 agmine, Lernaesosque trahit fatalis alumnos
 Gradivus stimulis ; hos terrae monstra deumque
 tela manent pulchrique obitus et ab igne supremo 640
 sontes lege morae. certa est victoria Thebis.
 ne trepida, nec regna ferox germanus habebit,
 sed Furiae geminumque nefas. miserosque per enses.
 ei mihi ! crudelis vincit pater.” haec ubi fatus,
 labitur et flexa dubios ambage relinquit. 645

Interea gelidam Nemeen et conscia laudis
 Herculeae dumeta vaga legione tenebant
 Inachidae ; iam Sidonias avertere praedas,
 sternere, ferre domos ardent instantque. quis iras
 flexerit, unde morae, medius quis euntibus error, 650
 Phoebe, doce : nos rara manent exordia famae

^a *i.e.*, the Argives.

^b Oracular reference to the fate of Amphiaras (swallowed up by the earth), Capaneus (struck by lightning), and the other heroes, and to Eteocles' decision to refuse burial to the Argive slain. *Cf. Ach.* i. 526.

in years, why was I chosen, first out of so many shades, to speak augury and to foretell what shall befall? 'Tis enough to have remembrance of the past. Seek ye my counsel, illustrious grandsons? nay, shame upon you! Him summon ye, him, to your unhallowed rites, who gladly pierces his father with the sword, who turns him to the place of his begetting, and casts back upon his innocent mother her own dear pledge of love. And now he wearies the gods and the dark councils of the Furies, and supplicates my shade for the coming strife. But if I have found such favour as a prophet of these times of woe, I will speak, so far as Lachesis and grim Megaera suffer me: War cometh from every side, war of countless hosts, Gradivus sweeps on the sons of Lerna^a before the goads of fate; them there await portents of the earth, and weapons of heaven, and glorious deaths, and unlawful withholdings from the final fire.^b Victory is sure for Thebes, doubt it not, nor shall thy fierce kinsman have thy realm; but Furies shall possess it, and twofold impious crime, and alas. in your unhappy swords your cruel father triumphs." So speaking he faded from their sight, and left them in doubt at his mazy riddling words.

Meanwhile the sons of Inachus with scattered troop had reached cool Nemea and the glades that witness to Hercules' renown; already they burn with eagerness to drive off Sidonian plunder, to destroy and ravage homesteads. Say thou, O Phoebus, who turned them from their path of anger, whence came their staying, and how in mid course they wandered from the way; to us but scant beginnings of the tale remain.

Marcidus edomito bellum referebat ab Haemo
 Liber ; ibi armiferos geminae¹ iam sidera² brumae
 orgia ferre Getas canumque virescere dorso
 Othryn et Icaria Rhodopen adsueverat umbra, 655
 et iam pampineos materna ad moenia currus
 promovet ; effrenae dextra laevaue secuntur
 lynces, et uda mero lambunt retinacula tigres.
 post exsultantes spolia armentalia portant
 seminecesque lupos scissasque Mimallones ursas. 660
 nec comitatus iners : sunt illic Ira Furorque
 et Metus et Virtus et numquam sobrius Ardor
 succiduque gradus et castra simillima regi.
 isque ubi pulvereae Nemeen effervere nube
 conspicit et solem radis ignescere ferri,³ 665
 necdum compositas belli in certamina Thebas,
 concussus visis, quamquam ore et pectore marcet,
 aeraque tympanaque et biforem reticere tumultum
 imperat, attonitas qui circum plurimus aures,
 atque ita : " me globus iste meamque excindere
 gentem 670
 apparat ; ex longo recalet furor ; hoc mihi saevum
 Argos et indomitae bellum ciet ira novercae.
 usque adeone parum cineri data mater iniquo
 natalesque rogi quaeque ipse micantia sensi
 fulgura ? reliquias etiam fusaeque sepulcrum 675
 paelicis et residem ferro petit impia Theben

¹ geminae ω : gelidae P.

² sidera P : sidere ω.

³ solem radiis ignescere ferri Pω : solis . . . ferrum
Madvig, silvam *Koestlin*, frondem *Slater*, pallescere *Garrod*
 (cf. 171), etc. A similar phrase occurs x. 844.

^a That of the vine, which Icarus of Sparta was taught by
 Bacchus to cultivate.

^b "Mimallones," i.e., Bacchanals.

In drunken languor Liber was bringing back his array of war from conquered Haemus; there had he taught the warrior Getae, two winters through, to hold the orgies, and white Othrys to grow green along his ridges and Rhodope to bear Icarian shade; ^a already he draws nigh in his chariot decked with vine-leaves to his mother's city; wild lynxes bear him company to right and left, and tigers lick the wine-soaked reins. In his train exulting Bacchanals ^b carry their spoil of beasts, half-dead wolves and mangled she-bears. No sluggish retinue is his: Anger and Fury are there, and Fear and Valour, and Ardour never sober, and steps that stagger, an army most like to its prince. But when he sees the cloud of dust surge up from Nemea, and the sun kindling on the flashing steel, and Thebes not yet marshalled for battle, horror-struck at the sight, though faint and reeling, he commands the brazen cymbals and the drums and the noise of the double pipe, screaming loudest about his astonished ears, to be silent, and thus speaks: "Against me and my race doth that host plan destruction; after long time their rage gains violence anew; savage Argos and my stepmother's indomitable wrath are stirring up this war. Doth it not even yet suffice—my mother's cruel burning, the natal pyre, and the lightning-flash that I myself perceived? Nay, even against the relics and the tomb of her consumed rival, against idle Thebes doth she make impious attack."^c

^a The reference is to Semele, mother of Bacchus, to whom she gave birth when struck by Jove's lightning. "residem" seems to mean "unwarlike," often a taunt in the mouths of enemies of Thebes, here a reproach against Argos for attacking her, as she is doing Argos no harm.

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nectam fraude moras ; illum, illum tendite campum, ' tendite, io, comites." Hyrcanae ad signa iugales intumuerē iūbas, dicto prius adstitit arvis.

Tēpus erat, mediū cum solem in cūlminā mundi 680 tollit anhelā dies, ubi tardus hiantibus arvis stat vapor atque omnes admittunt aethera luci. undarum vocat ille deas mediusque silentum incipit. "agrestes fluviorum numina Nymphae et nostri pars magna gregis, perferte laborem, 685 quem damus. Argolicos paulum mihi fontibus amnes stagnaque et errantes obducite pulvere rivos. praecipuam Nemeen, qua nostra in moenia bellis nunc iter. ex alto fugiat liquor ; adiuvat ipse Phoebus adhuc summo, cesset nī vestra voluntas, 690 limite ; vim coeptis indulgent astra, meaeque aestifer Erigones spumat canis. ite volentes, ite in operta soli ; post vos ego gurgite pleno eliciam, et quae dona meis amplissima sacris, vester habebit honos, nocturnaue furta licentum 695 cornipedum et cupidās Faunorum arcebo rapinas." dixerat ; ast illis tenuis percurrere visus ora situs, viridisque comis exhorruit umor. protinus Inachios haurit sitis ignea campos : diffugere undae, squalent fontesque lacusque, 700 et cava ferventi durescunt flumina limo. aegra solo macies, tenerque in origine culmi inclinata seges, deceptum margine ripae

^a The Hyrcanians were a people on the Caspian ; the name is often used by the poets = " wild, savage."

^b Because the sun pierces through them.

^c Named Maera, and set in the heavens as the Dog-star, after the death of Erigone from grief for her father Icarius.

By craft will I contrive delay ; hasten then thither, ho ! my comrades, thither to yon plain ! ” At the signal the Hyrcanian^a team pricked up their crests, and, the word scarce spoken, he halted at his goal.

It was the hour when panting day uplifts the sun to the mid summit of the world, when the languid heat hangs over the gaping fields, and all the groves let in the sky.^b He summons the spirits of the waters, and as they throng round him in silence he begins : “ Ye rustic Nymphs, deities of the streams, no small portion of my train, fulfil the task that I now do set you. Stop fast with earth awhile the Argolic river-springs, I beg, and the pools and running brooks, and in Nemea most of all, whereby they pass to attack our walls, let the water flee from the depth ; Phoebus himself, still at the summit of his path, doth aid you, so but your own will fail not ; the stars lend their strong influence to my design, and the heat-bringing hound of my Erigone^c is foaming. Go then of your goodwill, go into the hidden places of earth ; afterwards will I coax you forth with swelling channels, and all the choicest gifts at my altar shall be for your honour, and I will drive afar the nightly raids of the shameless horn-footed ones, and the lustful rapine of the Fauns.”

He spoke, and a faint blight seemed to overspread their features, and the moist freshness withered from their hair. Straightway fiery thirst drains dry the Inachian fields : the streams are gone, fountains and lakes are parched and dry, and the scorched mud hardens in the river-beds. A sickly drought is upon the soil, the crops of tender springing wheat droop low ; at the edge of the bank the flock stands

stat pecus, atque amnes quaerunt armenta natatos.
 sic ubi se magnis refluus suppressit in antris 705
 Nilus et Eoae liquentia pabula brumae
 ore premit, fumant desertae gurgite valles
 et patris undosi sonitus expectat hiulca
 Aegyptos, donec Pharus alimenta rogatus
 donet agris magnumque inducat messibus annum. 710

Aret Lerna nocens, aret Lyrceus et ingens
 Inachus advolvensque natantia saxa Charadrus
 et numquam in ripis audax Erasinus et aequus
 fluctibus Asterion, ille alta per avia notus
 audiri et longe pastorum rumpere somnos.¹ 715
 una tamen tacitas sed iussu numinis undas
 haec quoque secreta nutrit Langia sub umbra.
 nondum illi raptus dederat lacrimabile nomen
 Archemorus, nec fama deae; tamen avia servat
 et nemus et fluvium; manet ingens gloria Nympham,
 cum tristem Hypsipylum ducibus sudatus Achaeis 721
 ludus et atra sacrum recolet trieteris Opheltes.

Ergo nec ardentes clipeos vectare nec artos
 thoracum nexus—tantum sitis horrida torret—
 sufficiunt; non ora modo angustisque perusti 725
 faucibus, interior sed vis quatit; aspera pulsu
 corda, gelant venae, et siccis cruor aeger adhaeret
 visceribus; tunc sole putris, tunc pulvere tellus
 exhalat calidam nubem. non spumeus imber

¹ *Seven lines, only found in L and regarded as spurious by all edd., are here omitted.*

^a *i.e.*, Nile, as source of Egypt's fertility; so Tib. i. 7. 24 "Nile pater."

^b The name means "Beginner of Doom," and denoted the beginning of doom for the Argive host. Cf. v. 647. Elsewhere the infant is called Opheltes.

^c *i.e.*, when the Nemean festival is established with its

•baffled, and the cattle seek in vain the rivers where they bathed. Even so, when ebbing Nile buries itself in mighty caverns and gathers into its mouth the life-giving streams of Eastern winters, the flood-deserted valleys steam, Egypt gapes wide and waits expectant for the roar of her sire's waves,^a till by dint of many prayers he give sustenance to the Pharian fields and bring on a great year of harvest.

Dry is guilty Lerna, dry Lyrcius and great Inachus, and Charadrus that rolls down boulders on his stream, bold Erasinus •whom his banks ne'er contain, and Asterion like a billowy sea; oft hath he been heard on pathless uplands, oft known to break the repose of distant shepherds. But Langia alone—and she by the god's command—preserves her waters in the •silence of a secret shade. Not yet had slaughtered Archemorus^b brought her sorrowful renown, no fame had come to the goddess; nevertheless, in far seclusion, she maintains her spring and grove. Great glory awaits the nymph, when the toiling contests of Achæan princes and the four-yearly festival of woe shall do honour to sad Hypsipyle and holy Opheltes.^c

So then neither burning shields nor close-fitting breastplates have they power to carry—so fiercely doth fiery thirst^d scorch them—not only their mouths and the throat's passage are parched, but a fever rages within, their hearts beat heavily, the veins are thick congealed, and the tainted blood cleaves to the dried-up tissues; then the crumbling, sunburnt earth exhales a hot vapour. No rain of

games in honour of Opheltes (the infant whom Hypsipyle nursed, and who was slain by the serpent).

^a For other descriptions of thirst *cf.* iii. 328, vi. 471.

manat equum : siccis inlidunt ora lupatis, 730
 ora catenatas procul exsertantia linguas ;
 nec legem dominosve pati, sed perfurit arvis
 flammatum pecus. huc illuc impellit Adrastus
 exploratores, si stagna Lycymnia restent,
 si quis Amymones superet liquor : omnia caecis 735
 ignibus hausta sedent, nec spes umentis Olympi,
 ceu flavam Libyen desertaque pulveris Afri
 conlustrent nullaue umbratam nube Syenen.

Tandem inter silvas—sic Euhius ipse pararat—
 errantes subitam pulchro in maerore tuentur 740
 Hypsipylem ; illi quamvis et ad ubera Opheltes
 non suus, Inachii proles infausta Lycurgi,
 dependet—neglecta comam nec dives amictu—
 regales tamen ore notae, nec mersus acerbis 744
 exstat honos. tunc haec adeo stupefactus Adrastus :
 “ diva potens nemorum—nam te vultusque pudorque
 mortali de stirpe negant—, quae laeta sub isto
 igne poli non quaeris aquas, succurre propinquis
 gentibus ; Arquitenens seu te Latonia casto
 de grege transmisit thalamis. seu lapsus ab astris 750
 non humilis fecundat amor—neque enim ipse deorum
 arbiter Argolidum thalamis novus—, aspice maesta
 agmina. nos ferro meritas excindere Thebas
 mens tulit, imbelli sed nunc sitis aspera fato
 submittitque animos et inertia robora carpit 755
 da fessis in rebus opem, seu turbidus amnis,
 seu tibi foeda palus ; nihil hac in sorte pudendum,

^a King of Nemea. Hypsipyle was daughter of Thoas, king of Lemnos. For her story see her own narrative in Bk. iv.

^b Adrastus mistakes her for Diana.

foam falls from the horses' mouths, their jaws close on dry bits, and far out hang their bridled tongues ; no restraint of their masters do they suffer, but scour the plain, maddened by the fiery heat. This way and that Adrastus sends scouts to discover if the Licymnian lakes yet remain, or aught of Amy-mone's waters, but all he drained by fire unseen, nor is there hope of moisture from Olympus, as though they ranged yellow Libya and Africa's desert sand and Syene shaded by no cloud.

At length wandering in the woodland—for so had Euhus himself devised—they behold on a sudden Hypsipyle, beauteous in her grief ; at her breast Opheltes hangs, not her own child, but the ill-starred offspring of Inachian Lycurgus ^a ; dishevelled is her hair and poor her raiment, yet in her countenance are marks of kingly birth, and a dignity not overwhelmed by a bitter lot. Then Adrastus, awe-struck, thus addressed her : “ Goddess, queen of the woodlands ^b—for thy countenance and honourable bearing proclaim thee of no mortal birth—thou who beneath this fiery vault art blest in needing not to search for water, succour a neighbouring people ; whether the Wielder of the Bow or Latona's daughter hath set thee in the bridal-chamber from her chaste company, or whether it be no lowly passion but one from on high doth make thee fruitful—for the ruler of the gods himself is no stranger to Argive bowers—look upon our distressed ranks. Us hath the resolve to destroy guilty Thebes with the sword brought hither, but the unwarlike doom of cruel drought doth bow our spirits and drain our exhausted strength. Help thou our failing fortunes, whether thou hast some turbid river or a stagnant marsh ; nought is

nil humile est ; tu nunc Ventis pluvioque rogaris
 pro Iove, tu refugas vires et pectora bellis
 exanimata reple . sic hoc tibi sidere dextro 760
 crescat onus . tantum reduces det flectere gressus
 Iuppiter, o quanta belli donabere praeda !
 Dircaeos tibi, diva, greges numerumque rependam
 sanguinis, et¹ magna lucus signabitur ara."
 dixit, et orantis media inter anhelitus ardens 765
 verba rapit, cursuque animae labat arida lingua ;
 idem omnes pallorque viros flatusque soluti
 oris habet . reddit demisso Lemnia vultu :
 " diva quidem vobis, etsi caelestis origo est,
 unde ego ? mortales utinam haud transgressa fuisset
 luctibus ! altricem mandati cernitis orbam 771-
 pignoris ; at nostris an quis sinus uberaque ulla,
 scit deus, et nobis regnum tamen et pater ingens—
 sed quid ego haec, fessosque optatis demoror undis ?
 mecum age nunc, si forte vado Langia perennes 775
 servat aquas ; solet et rabidi sub limite Cancrī
 semper, et Icarīi quamvis iuba fulguret astra,
 ire tamen." simul haerentem, ne tarda Pelasgus
 dux foret, a ! miserum vicino caespite alumnum—
 sic Parcae volvere—locat ponique negantis² 780
 floribus adgestis et amico murmure dulces
 solatur lacrimas : qualis Berecynthia mater,

¹ sanguinis et *P* : plebis et hic ω.

² ponique negantis *L Schol. Gronovius Bentley* : ponitque negantem *P*ω.

^a See note on line 692.

to be held shameful, nought too mean in such a pass as ours. Thee now in place of the Winds and rainy Jupiter do we supplicate, do thou restore our ebbing might and fill again our spiritless hearts; so may thy charge grow under suspicious stars! Only let Jupiter grant us to return, what high-piled booty of war shalt thou be given! With the blood of numerous herds of Dirce will I recompense thee, O goddess, and a mighty altar shall mark this grove." He spoke, but a fevered gasping makes havoc of his words even in mid-utterance, and with the rush of breath his dry tongue stutters; a like pallor holds all his warriors, and like panting of the hollow cheeks. With downcast eyes the Lemnian makes answer. "No goddess indeed am I, to help you, though of heaven be my descent; would that my griefs were not more than mortal! 'Tis an entrusted pledge you behold me nursing, and a nurse herself bereaved. But whether my sons found any lap or breasts to suckle them, heaven knoweth,—and yet I had once a kingdom and a mighty father. But why do I speak thus, and stay you in your weariness from the waters ye desire? Come now with me, perchance Langia's stream yet runs unfailing; for even beneath the path of the furious Crab 'tis ever wont to flow, yea, though the shaggy hide of the Icarian star^a be blazing." Forthwith, lest she prove a tardy guide to the Pelasgians, she sets down the clinging infant—alas! poor child!—on the grass near by—so willed the Fates—and when he would not be put down consoled his pretty tears with flowers heaped around and coaxing murmurs: like the Berecyntian mother, while she bids the Curetes

dum parvum circa iubet exsultare Tonantem
Curetas trepidos ; illi certantia plaudunt
orgia, sed magnis resonat vagitibus Ide. 785

At puer in gremio vernae¹ telluris et alto
gramine nunc faciles sternit procursibus herbas
in vultum nitens, caram modo lactis egeno
nutricem plangore ciens iterumque renidens 790
et teneris meditans verba inluctantia labris
miratur nemorum strepitus aut obvia carpit
aut patulo trahit ore diem nemorique malorum
inscius et vitae multum securus inerrat.
sic tener Odrisia Mavors nive, sic puer ales
vertice Maenalo, talis per litora reptans 795
improbis Ortygiae latus inclinabat Apollo.

Illi per dumos et opaca virentibus umbris
devia ; pars cingunt, pars arta plebe sequuntur
praeaccelerantque ducem. medium subit illa per agmen
non humili festina modo ; iamque amne propinquo
rauca sonat vallis, saxosumque impulit aures 801
murmur : ibi exsultans conclamat ab agmine primus,
sicut erat levibus tollens vexilla maniplis
Argus " aquae ! " longusque virum super ora cucurrit
clamor " aquae ! " sic Ambracii per litora ponti 805
nauticus in remis iuvenum monstrante magistro
fit sonus inque vicem contra percussa reclamatione
terra, salutatus cum Leucada pandit Apollo.
incubere vadis passim discrimine nullo
turba simul primique, nequit discernere mixtos 810

¹ vernae *Pw*: tenerae *conj.* Garrod: variae Klotz.

^a Delos.

^b The temple of Apollo at Actum on the Ambracian Gulf.
566

leap in excited dance around the infant Thunderer ; their cymbals clash in emulous frenzy, but Ide resounds with his loud wailings.

But the child, lying in the bosom of the vernal earth and deep in herbage, now crawls forward on his face and crushes the soft grasses, now in clamorous thirst for milk cries for his beloved nurse ; again he smiles, and would fain utter words that wrestle with his infant lips, and wonders at the noise of the woods, or plucks at aught he meets, or with open mouth drinks in the day, and strays in the forest all ignorant of its dangers, in carelessness profound. Such was the young Mars amid Odrysian snow, such the winged boy on the heights of Maenalus, such was the rogue Apollo when he crawled upon Ortygia's^a shore, and set her side a tilt.

They go through the coppices and by devious dusky ways of shadowy green ; some cluster round their guide, some throng behind, others outstrip her. In the midst of the band she moves with proud mien and hurrying step ; and now the vale echoes loud as they approach the stream, and the plashing of water upon rocks assails their ears : then first from the column's head, just as he was, with banner raised high for the nimble companies, Argus exultant cries "Water !" and through the warrior's mouths ran the long-drawn shout of "Water !" Even so, along the shores of the Ambracian sea, sounds forth at the helmsman's prompting the shout of the seamen at the oars, and in turn the smitten land sends back the echo, when Apollo^b at their salutation brings Leucas into view. Into the stream the host plunged, indiscriminate and disordered, chieftains alike and common soldiers ;

aequa sitis, frenata suis in curribus intrant
 armenta, et pleni dominis armisque feruntur
 quadripedes ; hos turbo rapax, hos lubrica fallunt
 saxa, nec implicitos fluvio reverentia reges
 proterere aut mersisse vado clamantis amici 815
 ora. fremunt undae, longusque a fontibus amnis
 diripitur, modo lene virens et gurgite puro
 perspicuus nunc sordet aquis egestus ab imis
 alveus ; inde tori¹ riparum et proruta turbant
 gramina ; iam crassus caenoque et pulvere sordens, 820
 quamquam expleta sitis, bibitur tamen. agmina bello
 decertare putes iustumque in gurgite Martem
 perfurere aut captam tolli victoribus urbem.

Atque aliquis regum medio circumfluus amni :
 " silvarum, Nemea, longe regina virentum, 825
 lecta Iovis sedes, quam tu non Herculis actis
 dura magis, rabidi cum colla comantia monstri
 angeret et tumidos animam angustaret in artus !
 hac saevisse tenus populorum in coepta² tuorum
 sufficiat ; tuque o cunctis insuete domari 830
 solibus, aeternae largitor corniger undae,
 laetus eas, quacumque domo gelida ora resolvis
 immortale tumens ; neque enim tibi cana repostas
 Bruma nives raptasque alio de fonte refundit
 Arcus aquas gravidive indulgent nubila Cori, 835
 sed tuus et nulli ruis expugnabilis astro.

¹ tori *P* : toros *ω* (*sc.* alveum).

² in coepta *Schrader* : incepta *PD*, incoepta *BQN*.

^a The river here is addressed in the masculine, as distinct from its nymph.

^b The idea of the rainbow sucking up moisture is common in Latin writers, *e.g.* "bibit ingens Arcus," Virg. *G.* i. 380, and *Theb.* ix. 405 ; the present passage is an original application of the idea.

^c The north-west wind.

levelling thirst makes no distinction in their confused ranks ; bridled horses with their chariots, chargers with armed riders all dash madly in. Some the flood whirls away, some lose their footing on the slippery rocks, nor have they shame to trample their princes as they wrestle with the torrent, or to sink beneath the stream the face of a friend who cries for succour. Loud roar the waves, while far from the fountain-head is the river plundered, that once flowed green and clear, with gentle lucid waters, but now from the depths of its channel is muddied and befouled. Then the sloping banks and torn herbage are mingled with the stream ; and now, though it be stained and filthy with mire and earth, and though their thirst be quenched, yet they drink still. One would think armies strove in fight, or a pitched battle raged in the flood, or the conquerors were looting a captured city.

And one of the princes, standing in the midst of the streaming river, cried . “ Nemea, noblest by far of verdant glades, chosen seat of Jove, not even to the toils of Hercules wert thou more cruel, when he strangled the furious monster’s shaggy neck, and throttled the breath within its swollen limbs. So far let it suffice thee to have vexed thy people’s enterprise. And thou,^a whom no suns are wont to tame, O horned one, so lavish of never failing waters, flow with prosperous current, from whatsoever storehouse thou settest free thy cooling springs, immortally replenished ; for hoary Winter pours not out for thee her laid-up snows, nor doth the rainbow shed waters stolen from another fount,^b nor do the pregnant storm-clouds of Corus^c show thee favour, but thou flowest all thine own, and no star

STATIUS

te nec Apollineus Ladon nec Xanthus uterque
 Spercheusque minax Centaureusque Lycormas
 praestiterint ; tu pace mihi, tu nube sub ipsa
 armorum festasque super celebrabere mensas— 840
 a Iove primus honos—bellis modo laetus ovantes
 accipias fessisque libens iterum hospita pandas
 flumina defensasque velis agnoscere turmas.”

^a *i.e.*, in the Troad or in Lycia.

^b A river in Aetolia. As there is no known connexion between the river and any Centaur, the epithet may mean “Centaur-like,” *i.e.*, as furious as a Centaur.

can overcome thee or destroy. Thee neither Ladon, Apollo's river, shall surpass, nor either Xanthus,^a nor threatening Spercheus, nor Lycormas^b of Centaur's fame; thee will I celebrate in peace, thee beneath the very cloud of war, and at the festal banquet, ay, honour thee next to Jove himself—so but thou gladly receive our triumphing arms, and again be pleased to give the welcome of thy streams to our tired warriors, and recognize of thy grace the host thou once didst save.”

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